

Returnees from Damascus:

Food lines in Syria as economy teeters

By YEHUDA LITANI
Post Middle East Editor

The Syrian economy appears to be on the verge of collapse, according to reliable sources who returned to Israel from Syria this week. Syria's foreign currency reserves are almost exhausted, leaving the country unable to finance food imports, the sources said.

People in Damascus and Aleppo are forced to queue for up to six hours for basic foodstuffs, and no Syrian crossing into Lebanon is permitted to take more than the equivalent of 100 Syrian lira, about \$4.

Electricity to all Syrian homes is turned off daily from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m., according to the sources, and there are also frequent power outages.

Some 50,000 political prisoners — members of the Muslim Brotherhood and other opposition groups — are being held in Syrian jails, the sources added.

Economic hardships and the increase in the number of political detainees have combined to create great tension in the country, the sources said.

Meanwhile, *The Jerusalem Post* learned yesterday of a series of unsuccessful secret meetings held last month between Syrian Vice President Rifaat Assad and PLO leader Abu Iyad.

Reliable Arab sources said that

the meetings, held at the PLO's initiative, were aimed at re-establishing relations between Syria and the PLO. They were the first official contacts between Syria and the PLO since the rift between the two in 1984.

The sources reported that the talks, held in an undisclosed Arab state, broke down over Syrian demands that the PLO central committee overthrow Yasser Arafat and scrap the 1985 Amman accords.

Relations between Syria and the PLO deteriorated in 1984 when Syria backed a rebellion led by Abu Musa against the PLO mainstream, and broke down entirely with the Syrian siege of Tripoli later the same year.

The sources pointed out that the PLO had initiated the meetings with Rifaat Assad, President Hafez Assad's younger brother, probably in the wake of King Hussein's February speech which severed Jordan's contacts with the PLO leadership.

The Syrian demand for Arafat's replacement was partly a reaction to a statement Arafat made in a newspaper interview last year. Speaking to the Paris-based *Al-Fikr* Arafat charged that Rifaat Assad sought to establish "a union of minority groups — including Jews" — to challenge Sunni Moslem domination of the Middle East. The Assads belong to the Alawite sect in Syria.

Likud may reassess Peres line on W. Bank

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Likud will probably reassess the policy of improving the quality of life for Arabs in the administered territories when Yitzhak Shamir takes over the premiership from Shimon Peres, Deputy Defence Minister Michael Dekel said yesterday.

Dekel is collecting data to be used in such a reassessment in mid-October under the rotation agreement.

When Shamir becomes premier he will have to "examine whether procedures Shimon Peres has initiated meet his criteria and whether he (Shamir) should pursue or amend them," said Dekel.

He said that attempts to improve the quality of life were part of Peres's policy, and "not so much the government's policy." As far as he knew, the government had not discussed the matter, he added.

But Labour's Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi insisted last night that even after rotation, there would be no change in the policy aimed at enabling Arabs in the territories to run their own civil and municipal affairs.

Anyone thinking this would be the case was "deceiving himself," he said.

The deputy defence minister retrained from outright criticism of the policy, but clearly had reservations about the transfer of funds from Arab countries to the West Bank, and about "questions of control" over land, building, agriculture and planning. He did not elaborate.

Dekel was cautious when asked about attempts to raise \$500 million for development projects in the territories. Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Shmuel Goren was recently in the U.S. attempting to raise the money.

Goren took with him various development proposals which Dekel said he planned to discuss with him. They should be judged on the basis of whether they "serve Israel's needs," said the minister.

Dekel said investment in road construction and the water supply in the West Bank would be "very positive." He said that construction of factories to employ Arab residents

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Prime Minister Shimon Peres chats with Vice President George Bush (left) during their meeting in Washington yesterday. In centre is Israel Ambassador Meir Rosenne. (Reuter telephoto)

Labour drops clause on equal status Judaism

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Labour Party has dropped its previous commitment to equal status for all streams in Judaism in favour of a vague "recognition" of religious pluralism.

The platform was revised this week after the original draft provoked the displeasure of Prime Minister Peres. The revised version will be submitted to the senior preparatory committee by the end of the week.

The entire platform will be submitted for the approval of the Labour Party national convention next week.

The original version, criticized by Peres as harmful to the party's ties with the religious public and the religious parties, said Labour "regards all the streams in Judaism as having equal status." The revised version talks only about "recognition of the religious pluralism that exists (in Judaism)."

A clause in the original document which would have committed Labour to "correcting distortions in religious legislation" has been omitted in the revised version.

Other omissions include a commitment to ensure that religious services and resources are provided "to all the streams in Judaism on an equal basis and without discrimination," a commitment to ensure that aid to religious institutions accords with "objective and equal criteria, without discrimination," and a series of commitments to ensure the proper, legal functioning of the rabbinical courts.

Committee chairman Haim Zadok, who also headed the subcommittee which revised the draft platform, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the goal of the revision had been to "moderate the language" of the original. He described the final product as "well-balanced and suited to Labour's wide spectrum of public support."

Premier urges quiet peace diplomacy

Peres — Shultz talks to focus on 'new ideas'

By WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON. — Prime Minister Peres yesterday said that he expected to explore "new ideas" in the effort to get Arab-Israeli peace negotiations off the ground when he meets Secretary of State George Shultz in a second session today.

Peres, following a full day of talks with Shultz and Vice President George Bush, refused to spell out exactly what he had in mind. He called for some "quiet diplomacy," insisting that "no doors should be shut."

Meeting with Israeli reporters, Peres said that in the coming days he expected the Reagan administration to release half of the remaining \$750 million in U.S. emergency economic aid appropriated for Israel last year. The remaining \$375 million, he said, would be disbursed before October 1.

Shultz warmly praised Israel's economic recovery programme, but noted that it was still "in mid-stream." He urged Israel to impose greater budget cuts.

Peres said he had found a basic sympathy in the administration for his concept of a new "Marshall Plan" aimed at helping developing countries in the Middle East.

Israeli officials were hoping that the Western industrialized states would use some of the money they are saving this year in oil imports to set up such a new development fund.

Peres was very upbeat on the economic recovery in Israel, citing statistics to show the growth in exports and the improved balance of payments situation.

At the State Department, Shultz said the U.S. was likely to fully share with Israel the military lessons learned from last week's exchange with Libya in the Gulf of Sidra. He said U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation was very close. "We have a very good and organized dialogue," he said.

Meanwhile Bush yesterday announced that he planned to visit Israel in the next two or three months.

The Vice President, who is expected to seek the Republican presidential nomination in 1988, has been anxious to strengthen his political base among Israel's friends in the U.S.

U.S. officials were pleased that Peres did not reiterate Israel's long-standing opposition to the Umil peacekeeping forces in South Lebanon. They sensed a clear difference on this issue between Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Jordan closes down PLO liaison office in Amman

Jerusalem Post Middle East Staff and Agencies

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday confirmed that the Jordanian government had closed the Palestinian liaison office in Amman.

The office was opened immediately after the February 1985 signing of the Amman accords between Jordan and PLO. It dealt with the bureaucratic and administrative red tape encountered by PLO members in Jordan, facilitating the issuing of residency permits, and other documents.

Arafat played down the significance of the closure, saying that it had been previously agreed upon by

the two sides. But Jordanian sources said that it was a unilateral Jordanian move, indicative of the cooling of King Hussein's relations with the PLO.

In a departure statement after a three-day visit to Kuwait, Arafat told reporters: "The Jordanian authorities did close down the PLO liaison office in Amman but that closure took place on the basis of an agreement between the two sides."

Arafat's statement came in the wake of press reports in the Gulf media claiming that Jordan had closed most PLO offices in Amman on April 1 and was to deport more than 100 functionaries.

NY Times report: Israel was to provide Shah with advanced missiles

By WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON. — Before the fall of the Shah of Iran in 1979, Israel was involved in a multi-billion dollar project to modify advanced, surface-to-surface missiles for sale to Iran, *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

Citing documents said to have been left in Teheran by Israeli diplomats, the newspaper said that Israel had told the Iranians that the missiles could be fitted with nuclear warheads, although this possibility was not pursued.

"The two sides agreed that if Iran wanted a nuclear ability, this would pose a problem with the Americans," the report said.

The alleged Israeli papers, in English, were published in paperback by the Iranians who seized the U.S. Embassy in Teheran in November 1979.

The Israeli-Iranian project, code-named "Flower," was reportedly one of six oil-for-arms contracts signed in April 1977 in Teheran by the Shah and Shimon Peres, then Israel's defence minister.

Oil price drops below \$10

LONDON (Reuter). — Prices for Brent oil, the chief North Sea crude, were depressed further yesterday with many below \$10 a barrel. Traders said more falls were likely.

The drop below the psychological barrier of \$10 was triggered on Monday by a warning by a United Arab

Local fuel prices to drop — P. 2

Emirates Oil Minister, Mana Said al-Oreiba that prices could fall as low as \$5 if the oil-producing Opec cartel failed to agree on output cuts to mop up the glutted market.

Prices for Brent July delivery cargoes were quoted yesterday at around \$9.45 a barrel, after U.S. prices on Monday were quoted at a record low of \$9.70 — down about \$1 from before the Easter holiday. June loadings were also quoted lower yesterday at around \$9.70 after selling at \$9.80 in the U.S. on Monday.

"Psychologically the market is poised for further drops with nothing to keep prices up," said one European trader. Others said levels could fall below \$8 this week.

Britain's prestigious *Economist* magazine said that Brent oil now costs less in real terms than it did in the early 1970s.

'Toto football winnings paid into gang's bank account'

By YORAM GAZIT

For The Jerusalem Post

Hundreds of thousands of shekels won in the Toto football pool during the past few months were deposited in the bank account of a well-known underworld figure who finances drug purchases and launders money, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

A gang of gamblers is believed to have bribed soccer players to lose games, thus influencing the Toto results. The gang has won the first prize 11 out of 13 times in the past few months.

The investigation into the Toto fraud began about five months ago, before the Second Division game

between Betar Ramle and Betar Haifa.

Arye Zaif, chairman of the Public Committee for Lotteries, admitted yesterday that he knew the match had been under investigation, but insisted that none of the other recent allegations of game-fixing had been substantiated.

Some days before the game, a number of Betar Ramle players were offered \$1,000 each to lose the game. One, Zefania Arye asked for a few days to consider the offer. He then went to the team's managers and to coach Danny Neuman and told them of the bribe attempt.

Ramle management reported the

affair to the Modi'in Ezrahi private investigation agency, via the Football Association, and asked them to investigate.

Arye meanwhile informed those who had offered him the bribe that he was rejecting the offer. He was later threatened by the group.

After questioning Arye, Modi'in Ezrahi gave its findings to the police fraud squad.

The members of the gang suspected of involvement in the Toto racket are all known to the police. The gang filled out the Toto forms in various places throughout the country and sent a number of people to collect the prize money.

Barbara Amouyal adds: The alleged game-fixing is reminiscent of the 1971 football corruption scandal that involved powerful underworld figures and political personalities behind certain football clubs.

Moshe Ben-Ze'ev, a member of the Etzioni Committee that investigated the 1971 scandal, told *The Post* yesterday that he "wouldn't be surprised" at a renewal of football corruption. "I haven't followed the football leagues over the years," he said, "and I don't know about recent allegations. What I do know is that many of our recommendations were never implemented."

After committee deadlocked on issue Cabinet to make decision on summer time

By AARON SITTNER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The announcement of summer time, vested by law with the interior minister, may be made instead by the cabinet, Energy Ministry sources indicated yesterday.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal is next Sunday to ask his cabinet colleagues to bypass the Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, who has again postponed a decision on summer time.

Peretz said yesterday that he would defer his decision for a "short time" after the seven-member committee of experts he had appointed had reported that they were deadlocked on the question.

The Energy Ministry believes that a growing pro-summer time sentiment will persuade the cabinet to agree to Shahal's proposal.

The members of the committee, appointed shortly after Shahal proposed a 182-day summer time, which he says will save the country \$6 million in fuel costs, are: former Supreme Court justice Benzion Shereshevsky (chairman); Prof. Yitzhak Versano, director of the pediatric department at Hasharon Hospital; Moshe Amirav, former director of the Road Safety Administration; Gideon Shure, adviser to the Governor of the Bank of Israel; Haim Shor, Technion expert in operations

research; Dr. Eli Mertzbach, chairman of the statistics department of Bar Ilan University's faculty of mathematics; and Rabbi Simcha Kook, rabbi of Rehovot.

Favouring summer time were Versano, Shure and Amirav. Opposed were Mertzbach, Kook and Shereshevsky. Shor withheld a recommendation.

The proponents said the additional hour of daylight would conserve energy, increase productivity and "possibly reduce road accidents."

The opponents cited concern about transgression of the Sabbath. Weighed against this, they said the claimed fuel savings — even if borne out — must remain a secondary consideration. As for a possible reduction in road accidents, they could find no clear-cut conclusions in the studies they examined.

While Amirav cited a Technion

survey by Moshe Becker that showed fewer road accidents in 1984 and 1985 (when there was summer time) compared with 1982 and 1983 (when there was none), Mertzbach produced a statistical study that showed no correlation between summer time and road accidents.

The committee criticized the failure of various ministries and other organizations to respond to invitations to testify. Of the two dozen or so groups invited to appear, only three accepted: the Electric Corporation, the Ministry of Energy and the Transport Ministry.

As a result, said Shereshevsky, no clear-cut opinion was received from the medical sector, except for a survey favourable to summer time made by Versano among 100 patients selected at random in the wait-

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	1.8.86	2.8.86	3.8.86	4.8.86
	TEMP.	WIND.	WIND.	WIND.
AMSTERDAM	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
BRUSSELS	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
RUSSOMIERS	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
CHICAGO	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
COPENHAGEN	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
FRANKFURT	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
GENEVA	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
HELSINKI	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
HONG KONG	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
JOHANNESBURG	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
LONDON	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
MADRID	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
MONTREAL	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
NEW YORK	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
OSLO	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
PARIS	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
SAO PAULO	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
STOCKHOLM	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
TOKYO	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
TORONTO	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18
ZURICH	17-20	14-18	14-18	14-18

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered showers and thunderstorms, ending in the afternoon.

	Yesterday's	Today's	Max.
	Humidity	Temp.	Temp.
Jerusalem	65	14-16	14
Golan	70	12-19	19
Nahariya	78	12-19	19
Safed	88	9-13	13
Haifa Port	67	14-20	20
Thessalon	65	13-22	22
Nazareth	69	12-17	17
Afula	82	10-20	20
Shomron	86	10-17	17
Tel Aviv	73	13-21	21
B-G Airport	74	10-20	20
Jericho	50	13-26	26
Gaza	78	17-20	20
Beersheva	96	10-24	24
Eilat	25	17-27	27

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Deputy Knesset Speaker Dov Ben-Meir yesterday welcomed from the Knesset rostrum the members of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Council of Europe, headed by Mr. B. Elmqvist of Denmark, who are here on a three-day visit.

Rubinstein piano competition starts

The fifth Arthur Rubinstein International Competition for master pianists started yesterday in the Tel Aviv Museum before a full house. This year is the 100th anniversary of Rubinstein's birth. Thirty-four young musicians from 14 countries drew lots on Monday to determine the order in which they will perform. The competition is divided into five stages and will continue until April 19. In the first stage, each contestant gives an uninterrupted 55-minute recital from a set repertoire. On April 19, the three finalists will play with the IPO in Binyanei Ha'uma in Jerusalem. The winner receives a gold medal and a \$10,000 prize.

CABINET

(Continued from Page One)

ing rooms at Hasharon and Beilinson Hospitals. As for energy savings, the Electric Corporation told the committee that last year's summer time had resulted in a savings of \$8.5 million kilowatt-hours, which the corporation translated into a savings of \$3.2m. while the Energy Ministry had estimated savings at \$4.6m.

But Shor questioned this, claiming that a reduction in demand for electricity because of the extra hours of daylight would eventually be cancelled out by increased use of electric lighting, as lifestyles change and more activities are left for late evening.

What is more, Shor said, the extra daylight hour would mean more motoring and hence more petrol consumption.

Mertzbach said that Becker's comparison of road accident rates in 1984 and 1985 with the two preceding years "do not afford a substantial statistical base," for a conclusion. According to Mertzbach, a study of road accidents from 1977 and 1983 showed that the yearly fluctuations in the number of accidents had no connection with summer time.

Even before the committee deadlock was announced, Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein said that "what may be" the country's post offices would start a summer time schedule on April 27, opening and closing an hour earlier than usual.

At the Knesset, the National Religious Party faction spokesman said that "most of our members want summer time." Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg, a former interior minister, is opposed in principle to any measure that could lead to the desecration of the Sabbath.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Jewish-Arab settlement endangered by Latrun monks' demand for more rent

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Jewish-Arab settlement of Neve Shalom seems to have been successful in promoting peace with everyone except its landlords, the Trappist monks of Latrun, who want more rent.

Sources close to Neve Shalom say that the demand has resulted from the settlement's relative success in attracting a constant stream of participants to its activities, which include a school for peace.

The land on which Neve Shalom stands was a barren hilltop midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv when it was acquired some 20 years ago by Father Bruno Hussar, a Dominican monk active in interfaith work, who initiated the mixed village. He paid the monastery a symbolic sum for what Neve Shalom

claims was a long-term lease. The lease was important to Neve Shalom, which has not been recognized as a new settlement by the Jewish Agency, the government or any other official body.

But the contract is apparently unclear. Even sources close to Neve Shalom are uncertain whether the lease is for 49 or 99 years. Nor can they say whether the contract was drawn up according to Israeli law or canon law.

Father Paul, the abbot of Latrun, was unwilling to comment on the matter to *The Jerusalem Post*, but the monks are said to claim that canon law does not allow for leases of more than seven years.

Hussar, now in Europe, is expected to call upon the head of the Trappist Order in Paris in an attempt

to persuade him to intercede on behalf of Neve Shalom. He is also expected to consult with canon law experts in Belgium.

Several court hearings have been scheduled, but the monks have always had the case postponed. Neve Shalom sources say. Another hearing has been set for May 4.

Wellesley Aron, chairman of Neve Shalom's board, told *The Post* that, the rent question aside, the monks and the settlement had been good neighbors.

He said that the steady stream of visitors gave the settlement an air of prosperity, but that was an illusion. Facing drastically increased rent, settlers who might have invested their life-savings in building a home there were hesitant of such a step now, he said.

Tay-Sachs 'found among Moroccan Jews'

By JUDY STEIGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Tay-Sachs disease, a genetic disorder thought to be mainly carried by Ashkenazi Jews, has been found among Jews of Moroccan origin, according to a report on Israel TV last night.

Two studies, one at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem and one at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, have not yet produced conclusive results. Thus the experts will not yet recommend that all couples of Moroccan or mixed Moroccan-Ashkenazi background take a test to determine if they are carriers.

A handful of cases were found, inducing the hospitals to conduct a survey of non-Ashkenazi parents.

Tay-Sachs is a genetically inherited nerve disorder that causes death between the age of 2 and 4. It had hitherto been thought to occur mostly in families of Eastern European Jewish origin.

It is marked by progressive mental and physical retardation. Symptoms first appear at about six months, after which no new skills are learned and there is progressive loss of those skills already learned.

Convolutions are followed by blindness, with a cherry-red spot on the retina, and then by dementia and paralysis. There is no cure, but treatment is given to relieve some of the symptoms.

The disease can be diagnosed before birth by amniocentesis. Parents can find out if they are carrying the

defective gene by a simple blood test, available free at the Health Ministry's district offices.

All couples of Ashkenazi origin who are about to marry, or have children, are urged to take the test.

Prof. Gideon Bach of the genetics laboratory at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem says that some cases of the disease have turned up in recent years among Jews of Moroccan origin. His lab began conducting a study, but findings are not yet final.

If a study by Dr. Ruth Navon of Sheba's Hospital's genetics laboratory - due to be completed in two weeks - confirms that Moroccan Jews may be carrying Tay-Sachs, Bach will recommend that Moroccan Jewish couples also take the test.

French observers begin pullout from Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP). - France yesterday withdrew its military observers from their three observation posts and announced the 45-strong force would be pulled out of Lebanon altogether, as its task had become impossible in the deteriorating security situation here.

The decision is known to be in line with the wish of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to reduce the number of potential French hostages in Lebanon, where the Islamic Jihad extremists are holding seven, after having apparently executed an eighth last month.

No exact date has been given for the evacuation of the observers, but the French transport ship *Ouvagan* which left Brest Saturday has been ordered to Lebanon to bring back the force's equipment, a Defence Ministry statement said in Paris.

Gaza man shot driving through road-block

NAHAL OZ. - A Gaza man was shot and seriously wounded by IDF soldiers when he drove a stolen Subaru tender through an army road-block near Kibbutz Nahal Oz yesterday.

Soldiers signalled the driver to stop as he approached the road-block, on the road to Gaza, but the man accelerated and the troops opened fire as he smashed through the barrier.

UK flying school grounds Libyan students

By JERRY LEWIS
LONDON. - The Oxfordshire flying school has grounded five Libyan students, one of whom last week called Libya State Radio to offer their services as kamikaze pilots willing to attack American targets in the UK.

Colin Beckwith, principal of the school at Kidlington, just outside Oxford, announced the decision after all 14 Libyans attending flying courses had been questioned by Special Branch detectives.

Nehamkin to visit Turkey

Agricultural Minister Arye Nehamkin is due to visit Turkey this month. His will be the first ministerial visit to that country in more than a decade.

Nehamkin will represent Israel at the annual conference of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Efforts are being made to arrange for Nehamkin to meet his Turkish counterpart and other political personalities.

LOTTO. - Winning numbers in yesterday's Lotto draw were 3, 8, 9, 13, 18, 33; the additional number was 28.

Fresh bid today to heal rift in Herut leadership

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Correspondent

TEL AVIV. - A further effort will be made today to find a way out of the Herut impasse. Teams representing the contending factions are to be convened again this afternoon to try to arrive at an agreed formula on power-sharing in the party.

Labour Minister Moshe Katzav, chairman of the presidium of last month's party convention has warned that if the factions refuse to yield ground, he will unilaterally summon a second session of the convention. This session will take place without any prior accommodation among the factions and could therefore produce yet another explosive confrontation. Katzav is identified with the Shamir camp.

Monday's negotiations among rival Herut factions failed mainly because every faction insisted on pressing proposals which had already been rejected by the others.

The Shamir-Arenas side refused to agree to anything that would split the party chairman's role into a number of functions, leaving Yitzhak Shamir a figurehead leader with little authority. They insisted that the party chairman must continue to be executive chairman as well.

But the Levy-Sharon side wanted the executive chairman's role to be given to David Levy, with Ariel Sharon becoming central committee chairman. The idea that the Levy-Sharon alliance might have to content itself with the central committee

chairmanship alone was unacceptable.

The factions yesterday traded recriminations and accusations of intransigence. The only matter to have been upon since last month's aborted convention is that all convention delegates become central committee members.

Any show of unity seen prior to the opening of the Labour Party convention on April 8 is seen as unlikely. Another meeting of the faction chiefs themselves is being mooted as the only way out of the impasse.

Asher Wolfshin adds:

Arenas said yesterday that if Herut and the Liberals did not merge quickly, "we will run off the rails."

Arenas, who spoke at the Likud faction meeting called to sum up the parliamentary session before the Pessah recess, was echoed by Ariel Weinstein (Likud-Liberals), who warned: "The Herut wing will be making a fatal error if it does not immediately merge with the Liberals."

Before the convention, Herut had been pushing for the merger. But now it is holding back.

The Likud faction proceeded to approve a resolution calling for the merger to be completed immediately.

Observers commented yesterday that the Shamir-Arenas camp hope for Liberal backing against the Levy-Sharon camp.

Local fuel prices to drop again

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Another cut in fuel prices here is likely "some time this month," an Energy Ministry source told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

(The last price reduction was on March 6.)

Noting that "Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i's opposition to price reductions is no longer a problem."

Cooking oil down 7.4 per cent in price

Jerusalem Post Staff

Price changes announced yesterday by the Industry and Trade Ministry bring down the price of cooking oil by 7.4 per cent, margarine and mayonnaise by 6 per cent, and oil for manufacturers by 10.5 per cent.

But ketchup goes up by 10 per cent, washing powder by 6 per cent, and salt by 14 per cent.

The ministry has also authorized the price rises for the following local-

ly made goods: washing machines (15 per cent); vacuum cleaners (20 per cent); food mixers (20 per cent); air conditioners (15 per cent); televisions (12 per cent); and solar heaters (15 per cent).

The price of caraway seed bread, halloil and standard sliced bread will be allowed to increase by 8 per cent.

A ministry spokesman said the price changes will add about 0.1 per cent to the consumer price index.

Troops patrol streets as Sudan goes to polls

Post Middle East Staff

KHARTOUM, Sudan. - Sudanese began their first multi-party election in 18 years yesterday with armed troops patrolling the streets of the capital to maintain order.

"The voting has started throughout the country," said Ali Ibrahim, minister of the four-member government election commission. He said there had been no reports of violence during the first day of the scheduled 12 days of balloting.

Sudan's 5.9 million registered voters will be choosing 264 members of a constituent assembly from among 1,400 candidates representing 30 of about 50 registered political parties.

The constituent assembly will draft a new constitution and appoint a five-member "sovereignty council" and a new cabinet, restoring civilian rule after a coup last April ended the 16-year presidency of Ja'afar Numeiri.

The election was being watched especially closely by Egypt. An integration treaty between the two countries was dissolved on Sunday by the Sudanese government.

Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian foreign minister, said that all the establishments and bodies created under the treaty had not worked for a year, so the dissolution of the treaty would not change anything.

In a BBC interview he added that various economic and agricultural projects which were in operation be-

tween the two countries prior to the 1982 treaty would continue to function.

Ghali stressed: "This means that the dissolution of the treaty could not involve the cancellation of the integration principle between the two peoples, or between the two countries."

His government would contact the new government in Sudan after the poll in order to strengthen relations, Ghali said.

Among yesterday's voters was Sudan's military strongman, Gen. Abdel-Rahman Swardadhab, who had promised to hold elections before the first anniversary of his coup against Numeiri.

A senior Sudanese official told reporters troops were patrolling to guarantee security and underscore the army's commitment to free elections.

Sudanese and Western observers predicted the new government will be a shaky coalition, possibly including as many as five parties. They include the Umma party of former prime minister Sadek El-Mahdi, the Democratic Unionists of lawyer Mohammed Osman Mirghany, as well as the fundamentalist Islamic Front, the Syrian-backed Arab Ba'athists and the Communists.

Sudanese sources said several Middle Eastern countries, including Iran, Saudi Arabia and Libya, had been funneling money to major parties in hopes of influencing the election.



President Chaim Herzog and his wife Aura meet yesterday in Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem with pupils of the Brenner School in Petah Tikva who survived last summer's collision between a train and a bus taking them on a school outing. The accident claimed the lives of 22 people, 19 of them pupils. Seven months ago, the president visited the school at the pupils' invitation. Yesterday's visit to Beit Hanassi inaugurated the school's 1986 educational tours programme and was intended to break the psychological barriers to bus travel that many pupils have felt since the accident.

Shas wins appeal against Hillel ruling on conversion bill

A Shas bill giving rabbinical courts absolute authority to decide the validity of conversions is to be submitted for a preliminary reading in the Knesset shortly. This follows the ultra-Orthodox faction's successful appeal to the House Committee against Speaker Shlomo Hillel's ruling.

One effect of the bill would be that converts from abroad would need a rabbinical court's approval before being recognized as Jews under the Law of Return.

The amendment to the Rabbinical Courts Jurisdiction Law tabled by Shas would have the same effect as the abortive amendment to the Law of Return, the so-called "Who's a Jew" law, which stipulates that conversions must conform with Halacha. But the Shas bill makes no mention of Halacha.

Benny Shaita (Likud-Liberals), one of the Knesset's strongest critics of the bill, said that the policemen themselves were begging for "what they call a fair investigation outside the realm of the police." His demand for trying policemen in civil courts is not based on the argument that the police disciplinary court cannot act justly, but that justice must be seen to be done.

The Interior Committee resolution urged the immediate abolition of the system whereby policemen accused of brutality are both investigated by the police and tried in a police disciplinary court.

The committee said the change was urgently needed because police courts inflict mild punishments on offenders in such cases.

The committee recommended that the justice minister table legislation transferring such cases to the civil courts.

Qualified judges for IDF

The military establishment and the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee are at loggerheads over a proposal that would require the IDF's top judicial officer to have not only legal training but also lengthy legal experience.

When the committee yesterday began preparing an amendment to the Military Justice Law on the second reading, most members agreed, that the president of the Supreme Court of Military Appeal should have a law degree and seven years experience.

But IDF officers at the committee said the degree alone was adequate.

The military's high court is headed by an officer with no legal training.

The Shamgar Committee, which recommended several changes in the IDF judicial system, said it was incongruous for the top judicial post to be filled by a man who had never studied law.

Meir Shamgar, today President of the (civil) Supreme Court, was formerly the IDF's judge advocate-general and later the attorney-general.

Nor was there any change in "the concept that one must enable the Arab residents of the territories to find work there and create job opportunities there," the minister added.

Histadrut would accept lower C-o-L payments

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Post Labour Reporter

TEL AVIV. - The Histadrut is prepared to accept a new cost-of-living agreement which will lower compensation for inflationary wage erosion from the present level of 80 per cent.

Histadrut and employers' representatives are currently negotiating a new agreement to replace the one which expired yesterday.

Trade Union Department Chairman Haim Haberfeld told the department's coordinating committee yesterday that a lower rate of compensation would be acceptable, on condition that the difference is made up by wage supplements.

Wage negotiations will begin once

Two schoolgirls held on suspicion of drug peddling

By YORAM GAZIT
For The Jerusalem Post

Two high school girls were arrested yesterday on suspicion of using and selling drugs and will be brought before the magistrate's court in Rehovot today for the extension of their remand.

Rishon LeZion police have for some time been investigating a suspected drug-dealing ring at the girls' school, the Avshalom open high school in Rishon LeZion.

Last week, police arrested three men suspected of being members of the ring. Two of them, Zvi Mazor and Arieh Yanko, are Avshalom high school graduates who were arrested after the police found dozens of LSD doses and a commercial quantity of hashish and marijuana in their possession.

Another, Ilan Sperber, 32, was arrested later.

One of the girls, who lives near the school, and whose father is a prominent scientist, was reportedly turned in to the police by her parents after they had noticed that her physical and mental condition was deteriorating, and then discovered that she took drugs.

Other officers of the police department are also investigating the case.

The girls' names have not been disclosed.

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Two development towns confronted by rising unemployment

Yeroham 'on verge of despair, with no jobs and no future'

By LIOA MORIEL
YEROHAM. — Young people are leaving this development town in droves, a quarter of its people are out of work and soon the town may be abandoned completely, local activists warned yesterday.

The only solution would be to give the town to the army and disperse the population, they told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Assi Arama, who led the first protest strike here last year has been unemployed for three years. He said: "A man loses his dignity and the respect of his family when he is unemployed."

He was on his way to the Knesset to meet with MK Charlie Biton (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) to devise new protest actions.

"The mayor is too soft, he is not fighting hard enough," Arama said. "The next step should be to have all the people of Yeroham set up tents in front of the Knesset or in Tel Aviv's Kikar Hamedinah. They should then go on a mass hunger strike."

Arama said there was an air of desperation in the town of 6,000, with all the discharged soldiers and newly-weds leaving because "there are no jobs and no future."

Others are contemplating moving, Arama believes.

Yeroham was set up in 1951 as Israel's first development town, part of a plan to settle new immigrants outside main cities. In Yeroham's case, the idea was also to settle the Negev.

Built on the old road to Eilat, the town became a dead-end location when that road fell into disuse.

A recent attempt to open a new, shorter road from Yeroham to Beer-sheva failed when funds dried up.

Both Economic Planning Minister Gad Ya'acobi and Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, who visited the town on Monday, promised to push for the road's completion.

Not everyone is happy with the militant stand of the unemployed, but few have short-term solutions to offer.

"Forget private investors — just last year, the government was trapped into throwing away money for a beer factory that wasn't built," said Arama. "We need a strong factory, a Koor subsidiary for example, with jobs to hold people here."

Beit Shemesh Engines workers feel they kept their part of the bargain

By TSIPI KUPER
BEIT SHEMESH. — Workers at the Beit Shemesh Engines plant feel betrayed. They say they paid the price for their plant's recovery last year, but it is still threatened with closure.

"We fulfilled our part of the bargain when we agreed to the dismissal of 600 of the plant's 1,300 workers under the recovery plan," Pini Gussman, a staff committee member, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. "Now it's up to the government to find a solution."

Other workers in the debt-ridden government-owned plant in this development town near Jerusalem echo his sentiments. "They always make promises," said Avi Harush with an air of futility. "I've worked here for 12 years, since I was 16 years old."

"It's difficult enough as it is. I commute from Ashdod every day. My wife was fired from her job not long ago, and it's hard to pay the mortgage and keep a wife and two children on what I make."

"I grew up in this area, but if the

plant closes I'll probably move to Tel Aviv to look for work. There's nothing here on the same technology level," said Zion Ben-Yair, a mechanical engineer.

The 700 workers struck for an hour yesterday morning to protest against the postponement of a Knesset Economic Committee discussion on the plant's future. "Time is against us," said Gussman, who, together with other representatives of the workers and the local labour council, has been lobbying the committee members.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently suggested stopping government subsidies to the plant, a proposal which could lead to its closure.

Other alternatives being considered are selling the firm to Koor, the Histadrut holding company, or to Israel Aircraft Industries. But Pratt and Whitney, the American partner in the plant, is opposed to the IAI take-over.

Although only half the plant's workers live in Beit Shemesh, the

town's future is largely dependent on the company's survival, for it is the only local industry capable of attracting newcomers.

Between 8 and 10 per cent of the town's work-force is unemployed. Haim Harush, secretary of the local labour council, says: "Some 300 people are taking vocational training courses — most of them are those who were fired from Beit Shemesh Engines last year. But there'll be no work for them when the courses finish," he predicted.

Some 300 people — about 10 per cent of the work-force — commute to jobs outside Beit Shemesh, and as the local work-places close, the fear is that people will leave the town altogether.

Fifty people lost their jobs last month when a metal plant shut. Two quarries were planning to fire another 80 Beit Shemesh residents, Harush said.

"If a man knows there is no future here for his children what's to keep him here?" asked Harush. "If Beit Shemesh Engines closes, they might as well close the town."

Ramat Gan seeks ban on football 'marathon'

RAMAT GAN. — The police must prevent the Football Association from holding a six-hour football "marathon" in the Ramat Gan national stadium this Saturday, the municipality has demanded.

In a cable yesterday to Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev, Mayor Uri Amit said that the FA had shown a complete lack of sensitivity about Saturday football in the stadium, which has recently aroused conflict with religious groups.

Amit added that an event of the size of the proposed marathon would also be a serious nuisance to residents, and create extensive traffic and parking problems.

Jordan marks Land Day

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Land Day, marked on Sunday by Arabs in Israel and the territories, was also observed in a large Land Day-at-Akka demonstration in Amman, Jordanian newspapers reported yesterday.

Speakers at the rally, including Palestine National Council chairman Sheikh Abdel Hamid a-Seif, urged action to "liberate" Jerusalem's al-Akka mosque and "the Palestinian land" and people under Israeli occupation.

Jordanian newspapers devoted front-page stories to the demonstration, and published full-page texts of the speakers' remarks.

Undercover agent tells of weapon sale

TEL AVIV (Itim). — An undercover policeman told the District Court here yesterday how David Avitan allegedly said he was willing to plant bombs in public places for terrorist organizations for a fee of \$2,000.

In the first day of Avitan's trial yesterday, Habib Arafat of the Tul-karm police told how, posing as a leader of an Arab terror gang, he had been sent to meet Avitan. He said that Avitan had boasted that he was a tough underworld character and was willing to carry out terror acts for a fee.

Avitan was arrested last September when he sold Arafat an Uzi submachine gun for \$950.

Kol Yisrael spoof 'panics Swiss bankers'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter and Staff

TEL AVIV. — A broker here said that even bankers in Switzerland panicked when Kol Yisrael reported that the Swiss government had agreed to reveal the numbers of bank accounts held there by Israelis.

The radio carried the report in its 7 a.m. news bulletin as an April Fools' Day prank.

The broker told *The Jerusalem Post* that if such an agreement were implemented, the international banking system would go haywire. Israel, Switzerland, England, Holland and the U.S. are among the many countries whose banks offer tax-free foreign accounts to foreign residents.

Israeli banks hold some \$4 billion in such accounts, though the bank shares collapse of 1983 dealt them something of a blow.

The broker noted the huge loss that such an agreement would cause Switzerland. Swiss national holding accounts here would also be in trouble because, since the agreement was supposedly bilateral, their identities would be revealed to their governments.

Dozens of panic-stricken listeners yesterday flooded Kol Yisrael with telephone calls after the prank report was broadcast. Others were gleeful, saying "At last! Cut them down to size! They deserve it!" Still others said, "What a pity it's only an April Fools' prank."

"I'm sure that thousands, maybe hundreds of

thousands, got the shock of their lives this morning when they heard the news, and began thinking how to get their money out of Switzerland and into some other foreign bank account," a financial adviser said.

"That's it. I'm leaving the country," a wealthy businessman said. "I'm simply not prepared to have anybody touch my accounts and as soon as anyone tries, I'm leaving."

April foolishness struck on a smaller scale in a Jerusalem bank branch, where clerks called three business partners and informed them that all their cheques had bounced and all their accounts had been closed. The shaken-faced trio of businessmen rushed to the bank, where they were greeted by a chorus of wild laughter from the clerks.

Other April Fools' pranks went beyond the bounds of humour — and may result in prosecution of the pranksters.

An IDF soldier in the Intelligence Corps fabricated a report that Lebanese Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri had been gravely wounded in an assassination attempt.

Defence sources said the soldier drew up the false report on official stationery and passed it on to his superiors. The army then passed it on to the Defence Ministry. The "information" was quickly conveyed to several journalists, and Israel Radio led a number of news broadcasts with the item until it was discovered to be an April Fools' spoof. Before the joke was revealed, radio correspond-

ent Aharon Barnea had even given a lengthy commentary on the implications of the attack.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was handed the "report" on a slip of paper while attending a session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. Like Israel Radio, Rabin took it at face value.

A short while later, Rabin was given a second slip of paper telling him the story was a joke.

Rabin promised the committee that disciplinary action would be taken against the joker in intelligence.

In another case, it was reported that Druse had captured an IDF tank and its crew, and were headed for Nazareth.

In Kiryat Shmona, an unidentified phone caller told the town's emergency room staff, "There's been a major attack. There are dozens of casualties."

Without a second thought, staffers called the government hospital in Safad, which immediately went on an emergency footing. Operations were cancelled and off-duty doctors were told to rush to the hospital.

"This is the kind of thing you just can't play with," a hospital spokesman said when it turned out that the call had been a prank.

Hospital authorities have asked for police help in finding the phone caller. The hospital also wants to find out why the emergency-ward staff in Kiryat Shmona did not check the report further before alerting the hospital.

Bir Zeit waits to see how military gov't will react to demonstration

By JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BIR ZEIT. — Splintered rocks and soot yesterday marked the spot where students from Bir Zeit University had hurled stones, built roadblocks and burnt tires on Monday in their fiercest and longest confrontation with IDF troops in over a year.

But yesterday the students filed into lecture halls and strolled the narrow pathways of the university's old campus, as if Monday's street battles had never happened. Campus coffee shops were full, and not a soldier was to be seen.

There were two main concerns at Bir Zeit yesterday. The first, whether the university would again be closed by the military government. The second, the condition of the three students shot in the leg as they were pursued by troops.

Students and university officials spent much of the day discussing what action the military government might take.

The university has been closed several times after disturbances, the last closure being about a year ago, after nationalist publications were seized at a student book fair. But it has been quiet for many months.

One university staff member said he expected the Israeli decision would be made by the government's coordinator of activities in the occupied territories Shmuel Goren.

Students gathered at the university's public relations office seeking information on the condition of the three wounded students. A university worker told them that one of the students was under military guard at Hadassah Hospital, and could not be visited. He was apparently under arrest.

She said the two others had been

transferred under armed guard from the East Jerusalem Al-Makassed Hospital to Hadassah.

The father of one of the wounded students said Israeli security men had prevented him from visiting his son at Al-Makassed.

Student union members said Monday's demonstration had not been just another Land Day protest but a response to recent political developments between Jordan and the PLO, and to Israeli and Jordanian attempts to promote a non-PLO Palestinian leadership in the West Bank.

"Peres has his Village Leagues. Hussein has his representatives here, and we had to show that we have our opinion, that our representative is the PLO," one student union member said.

"There has been a growing tension, a feeling of helplessness on the West Bank," said a university employee. "In a sense the demonstration was therapeutic."

Students said the demonstration was evidence of renewed unity among political factions at the university who have been at loggerheads recently.

"By and large the students are happy that they did something," said one staff member. "They showed that Bir Zeit is part of the Palestinian struggle."

Soviet-watchers meet

Top U.S. and British Sovietologists are to join local experts in a conference at the Hebrew University tonight and tomorrow on "The 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party — New Beginnings?"

Giving tonight's opening address at the Mount Scopus campus will be Richard Pipes, President Reagan's former adviser on Soviet affairs.



An operating room team clowns around with a "colleague" yesterday at Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem, as the hospital celebrated Nurses Day. (Avi Hayon)

'Stress can damage the cells which defend against cancer'

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Stress can damage both the cells which protect the body from cancer and the body's immunological defences, Weizmann Institute Professor David Samuel said yesterday.

Almost 2,000 years ago, a Greek philosopher observed that sad women are more likely to get cancer than happy women, Samuel told a luncheon here yesterday.

Statistics on breast cancer gathered by Harvard medical school researchers have recently shown that widows are far more susceptible to breast cancer than other women. More recent research on humans and animals has begun to reveal why, Samuel said.

Stress apparently prompts the brain to produce a substance which destroys the cells that kill off cancer cells. And, in animals at least, research has shown that small nerves lead directly from the brain to centres of immunological activity within the body.

Samuel and other scientists hope to find a medication to prevent these effects of stress. In the meantime, he advises people not to use tobacco, alcohol, harmful drugs, tranquilizers, vitamins or medicines claimed by their manufacturers to alleviate stress. Doctors are the only people

More bus stop shelters torched in Jerusalem

Bus stop shelter arsonists were at work again early yesterday morning in Jerusalem, totally destroying a Ramot shelter and badly damaging another in Rechov Bar-Ilan.

Other shelters in Jerusalem bearing advertisements of a man and woman in bed have been sprayed with black paint in the past few days. The burning of shelters has been going on for the past several months. In some cases, ultra-Orthodox men have been arrested as suspects. (Itim)

Anti-hashish campaign to be launched

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

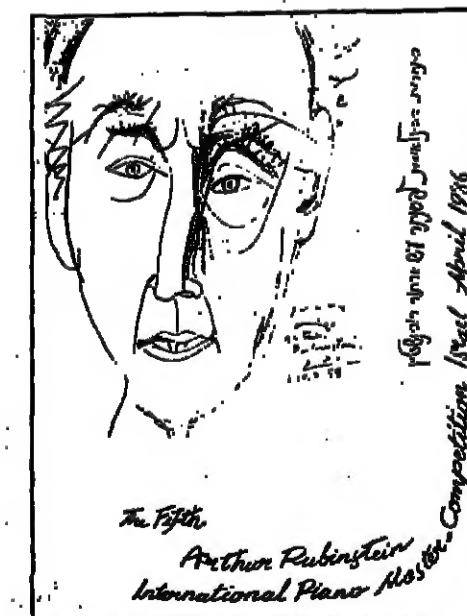
TEL AVIV. — Alsam, a group dedicated to fighting drug abuse, is launching a nationwide information campaign to impress young people with the dangers of taking the first puff of hashish.

Moshe Tiomkin, former Tel Aviv police chief and national chairman of Alsam, told a press conference this week that some 100 to 150 persons die each year from hard drug use in Israel, and most had graduated to hard drugs from hashish.

Some 17 per cent of youngsters had tried hashish before being drafted into the army, he said.

THE ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

THE FIFTH ARTHUR RUBINSTEIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO MASTER COMPETITION



Stage 1 and Stage 2
Tel Aviv Museum, April 1-8 and 10-13
Recitals and Chamber Music

Stage 3A — Semi-final
Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, April 15-16, at 20:00 p.m.
6 semi-finalists (3 each evening) will perform concerti for piano and orchestra with the

ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: JAN KRENZ (Poland)

Stage 3B — Final
3 finalists competing for the First Prize will perform concerti for piano and orchestra (different from those played at the semi-final) with the ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: JAN KRENZ

Under the patronage of Mr. Shlomo Lahat, Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yaffo
Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, April 17, at 20:00

GALA LAUREATES' CONCERT AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES
under the patronage of Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem
Binyanei Ha'uma: April 19, at 20:30
with the ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: JAN KRENZ

TICKETS: Rokoko, Tel Aviv
Ben-Naim and Klaim, Jerusalem

Never Before!

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On Afghanistan front

Soviets gear up for early offensive

ISLAMABAD (Reuters). — Soviet troops in Afghanistan appear to be gearing up for their earliest spring offensive ever against anti-Communist Moslem rebels, western diplomats and Afghan exiles said yesterday.

Russian troops have moved unusually close to the border with Pakistan in recent weeks, reinforcing army units and setting up posts to control guerrilla infiltration routes, they said.

Western diplomats here said their counterparts in Kabul expect the Russians to send in even more forces soon to confront the annual influx of newly armed and trained rebels from Pakistan.

The diplomats said rebels from other parts of Afghanistan were going to the border area to reinforce local guerrillas. Peshawar-based exiles could not confirm this because couriers have had more difficulty than usual travelling inside Afghanistan.

Soviet forces have had mixed results in recent weeks along the border, seizing a mountain overlooking infiltration routes through Pakistan's Kurram Agency, but losing newly established outposts near the Khyber Pass to a rebel counter-attack.

Afghan exiles in Peshawar said they had just learned that Soviet troops were again advancing on Nazian near the Khyber Pass.

Protestants go on rampage in N. Ireland

BELFAST (AP). — Protestant mobs went on a rampage in several towns yesterday, following rioting that began during a banned march through Portadown.

Police reported three shooting incidents early yesterday and said two men were hospitalized, one with gunshot wounds in the legs, after police fired two shots when they stopped a car 13 kilometres south-west of Belfast.

The vehicle, containing masked men, was stopped after an earlier incident in Lurgan, about 40 km. south of Belfast, when a policeman's house was stoned by a group of masked men who escaped in three cars. Police said they chased one of the cars.

Police said Protestant gangs hurled petrol bombs and other missiles at the homes of four Roman Catholic families in Lisburn. A Catholic school was also damaged by rioters. Four cars and a video shop were gutted, and petrol bombs were thrown outside a Catholic bar.

In Belfast, cars and buses were commandeered and set on fire in dozens of incidents across the city, a police official said in the capital.

Bodies found in Mexican air disaster

POMUCA, Mexico (AP). — Helicopter crews lifted bodies yesterday from the wreckage of a Mexicana Airlines jet that crashed into a mountain peak, killing all 166 people aboard. Foreign casualties included passengers from France, the U.S. and Canada.

The Boeing 727, en route from Mexico City to Los Angeles with stops in the Pacific resorts of Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan, hit the 2,377-metre mountain known locally as El Carbon about 140 kilometres north-west of Mexico City shortly after takeoff Monday morning.

The cause of the crash is not known, but the airline said the pilot had reported pressure problems and asked permission to lower his altitude shortly before the crash.

"Unfortunately, there are no survivors," a Mexicana spokesman said of the 158 passengers and eight crew.



Rescue officials yesterday collect the remains of the 166 persons who died in the crash of a Mexicana airliner on Monday. (AP telephoto)

Indian police gun down two Sikh fanatics

AMRITSAR. — Police shot dead two Sikh extremists in Punjab yesterday as a general strike began in New Delhi to protest against terrorist killings in the northern state.

The two men were killed in a shootout with the police near Harke Patten village, about 50 kilometres south of this Sikh holy city, state authorities said.

Curfew was relaxed for several hours yesterday morning in nearby Batala town to allow people to buy provisions, police said.

In New Delhi, most shops, schools and businesses were closed during a one-day strike to protest against the terrorist killings of 20 people over the weekend in Punjab.

The governor of Punjab was replaced yesterday by a veteran politician as the central government moved to bring order to the state, authoritative sources said.

The sources in the Punjab state capital Chandigarh said Shankar Dal Sharma, in office only three months, was replaced by Sidharth Shankar Ray, 65, a lawyer, former member of Parliament and chief minister of West Bengal state from 1972 to 1977.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe took time off yesterday from talks on Sikh militants, donning a yellow ceremonial turban to inaugurate a community centre in the dusty northern Indian village. (AP, Reuters)

S. African black convicted of killing five whites

JOHANNESBURG (AP). — A 19-year-old black man was convicted yesterday of setting off a bomb that killed five whites at a crowded shopping centre last December.

Andrew Zondo was found guilty of five counts of murder by Supreme Court Justice R.N. Leon after defence lawyers rested their case without presenting evidence.

Zondo, who had pleaded not guilty, is expected to be sentenced in the next several days and could receive the death penalty.

The pre-Christmas bombing at the beach resort of Amanzimtoti, outside the port city of Durban, killed two women and three children and injured 48 people.

An alleged accomplice of Zondo, identified in court only as "Mr. N", provided the key testimony for the prosecution.

The evangelist, the housewives and the rebels

DALLAS (Reuters). — From his chair behind a desk piled high with religious books; letters from admirers and his daughter's school records, evangelist William Murray is hardly the picture of a Central American revolutionary leader.

Only the detailed plot of a map of Nicaragua pinned to the wall of his cramped north Dallas office suggests the political cause that has become Murray's full-time job.

As the director of Freedom's Friends, a non-profit organization bent on rooting out Communism, Murray, 39, commands a growing army of more than 2,000 Texas housewives, businessmen and activists. They send aid to Nicaragua rebel troops, known as the Contras.

All are convinced that Nicaragua's ruling Sandinistas have become too friendly with the Soviet Union, presenting a serious threat to U.S. security.

"Our dream," he said, "is to see all of Latin America transformed into democracies like the U.S.," he says.

Donations to Freedom's Friends are spent exclusively on medical supplies, providing surgical gloves, syringes, disposable scalpels, bandages, drugs and antiseptics for the Contras.

Volunteers in Dallas, usually well-dressed society matrons and successful businessmen, spend hours each week writing addresses on fundraising envelopes, licking stamps and sealing packages of medical supplies.

Some have accompanied the shipments to Nicaragua and say they feel kinship with the Contras. They describe the rebels as middle-class citizens who lost their businesses, farms and families under Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega's government.

"I can very easily put myself in the place of some of those women," said Sherry Bell, 45, a Dallas homemaker and president of the local chapter of Eagle Forum, a conservative political group for affluent women.

"They were just like us with nice homes, working husbands, bank accounts and credit cards. Now they're living in tents."

Some members of Freedom's Friends say their efforts are needed to fight a spiritual war as well as a political one.

"My main hope is that these people will embrace Jesus Christ at the same time they embrace freedom," said Joan Whisenand, 35, the wife of a Dallas engineer who also donates bibles to tuck into the boxes shipped to the Contras.

Murray has also waged a war against his mother, atheist activist Madalyn Murray O'Hair.

Estranged from his family for the past eight years, he was the 14-year-old plaintiff in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1963 prohibiting prayer in private schools.

He later served as a top executive with his mother's Texas-based Society of Separationists.

Murray "found" religion in 1980 and began a ministry to convert others to Christianity. Today Murray believes he has found his true calling.

adjoining grounds of the palace of Crown Prince Akihito.

One was blocked by a hastily thrown police net. Another stuck in its launcher, police said.

The sole casualty in both attacks was a policeman who was taken to hospital with burns.

Three of the 26 to 30 known left-wing radical groups in Japan have been implicated in the rocket raids.

All the groups have pledged to upset the summit, which they denounce as a festival of capitalism, and the April 29 celebrations of the reign of the emperor, whom they blame for leading Japan into World War II.

The rockets consist of old spray-can tubes filled with petrol, mounted on wooden sticks and launched from metal pipes by charges of old-fashioned gunpowder. A lucky shot can travel about 1,000 metres.

"They are more like fireworks at a carnival," one government official said. "They could do damage, but are mainly meant to look spectacular."

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SPORTS

Shahar's welcome return to form

By JACK LEON

Israel's No. 2 tennis player Shahar Perkis scored his finest win for more than a year, decisively beating Brod Dyke 6-1, 6-4 in first-round singles competition at the Cologne Grand Prix. Perkis's impressive win came less than a fortnight after the Australian had sensationally defeated Boris Becker in Brussels. It was only Per Becker's second success since October in his main singles draw of a Grand Prix event; during the past 12 months, he has slumped from 53 to 186 in the ATP's world singles rankings.

There was, however, no change of fortune for Shlomo Glickstein. The Israeli champion's prolonged loss of form continues, and he went down tamely 6-3, 6-3 to Czech Karel Novacek.

Local No. 3 Amos Mandelstam, however, also thrashed to the second round of the \$100,000 tournament.

Perkis, 23, will gain immensely in confidence from his triumph over Dyke, who has slipped around 50 in the world rankings after spending around \$250,000 on the way to reaching the final of the \$250,000 Belgian event. The fitful Perkis player had been struggling to regain the form which has enabled him ever since he returned to the pro-tour last summer, having been sidelined for several months with a very minor heart abnormality.

Other first round winners include Peter Lundgren and Jan Gunnarsson, both of Sweden, Australian Wally Masur and American Chip Hooper.

In Atlanta, Eliot Teltscher upset countryman Johan Kriek 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the opening round of the WCT-Atlanta championships.

"It was probably the best I've played in about eight months," said Teltscher. "I've been hurt and haven't had a chance to play too many matches." Earlier, Mike Leach of the U.S. advanced to the second round by defeating compatriot Tom Warwick 7-5, 6-1.

England's torment continues unabated

PORT OF SPAIN (Reuters). — The West Indies slaughtered England in the final one-day cricket international at here, winning by eight wickets and taking the four-match series 3-1.

Richie Richardson (31), Desmond Haynes (77 not out) and Captain Viv Richards (50 not out) thrilled the 20,000 crowd with a fine array of strokes all over the ground to win in 38.2 overs.

This after England had been able to gather only 165 for the loss of nine wickets from their 47 overs.

The Robinson was the only England batsman to get stuck in for any length of time, making 55, Marshall, with four for 37 runs and Garner, who took the last two wickets with successive balls to finish with three for 22, were the main tormentors of the England's batsmen.

H.U. start in style as cricket under way

Post Sports Staff

Defending champions Hebrew University made an impressive start to the defence of their title with a five-wicket victory over Young Ramle but two bowlers Reuven Juirad for Young Ashdod and Yeruham's Rafi Bhashtek — each claiming seven wickets — took individual honours as the new Israeli cricket season got under way over the weekend. Five of the six teams who batted second won their games.

Fourteen teams, divided into two divisions, are contesting the double round robin competition of the league which will run until October. The highlight of the season will be the Israeli national team's participation in the third mini World Cup for associate members of the International Cricket Conference to be held in the English midlands in June. The national team will be selected after two rounds of trials in the middle of the month.

Weekend results: Modern Ashdod beat Hapoel Ramle by 3 wickets. Ramle 114 (Talbar 4-1, R. Reuven 6-4); Modern 115-8 (Naphthal Raj 38 not out).

Maccabi Lod A beat Maccabi Pessach Tikva by 5 wickets. PT 136 (Tal 4-3); Lod 128-3 (Benhar Samuel 34 not out).

Young Ashdod beat Ashdod A by 2 wickets. Ashdod A 105 (Juirad 7-38); YA 106-8 (Aarons 34).

Bereshba beat Hapoel Dimona by 35 runs. Bereshba 136-7 in 58 overs (Abrahamson 40; Dimona 101).

Yeruham beat Dimona by five wickets. Dimona 43 (Blauvelt 7-16); Yeruham 47-5.

Hebrew University beat Hapoel Ramle by 5 wickets. Ramle 167; HU 110-5 (Kessel 49, Nebien 34).

Winnipeg scored a 5-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings that clinched a playoff berth for the Jets.

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GOLF. John Mahaffey, who made up four strokes over the last eight holes to win the tournament play-off championship, moved into the top spot on the PGA money list by one. Second is Cal Peete and third Hal Sutton.

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MARVIN

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S. African black convicted of killing five whites

JOHANNESBURG (AP). — A 19-year-old black man was convicted yesterday of setting off a bomb that killed five whites at a crowded shopping centre last December.

Andrew Zondo was found guilty of five counts of murder by Supreme Court Justice R.N. Leon after defence lawyers rested their case without presenting evidence.

Zondo, who had pleaded not guilty, is expected to be sentenced in the next several days and could receive the death penalty.

The pre-Christmas bombing at the beach resort of Amanzimtoti, outside the port city of Durban, killed two women and three children and injured 48 people.

An alleged accomplice of Zondo, identified in court only as "Mr. N", provided the key testimony for the prosecution.

The evangelist, the housewives and the rebels

DALLAS (Reuters). — From his chair behind a desk piled high with religious books; letters from admirers and his daughter's school records, evangelist William Murray is hardly the picture of a Central American revolutionary leader.

Only the detailed plot of a map of Nicaragua pinned to the wall of his cramped north Dallas office suggests the political cause that has become Murray's full-time job.

As the director of Freedom's Friends, a non-profit organization bent on rooting out Communism, Murray, 39, commands a growing army of more than 2,000 Texas housewives, businessmen and activists. They send aid to Nicaragua rebel troops, known as the Contras.

All are convinced that Nicaragua's ruling Sandinistas have become too friendly with the Soviet Union, presenting a serious threat to U.S. security.

"Our dream," he said, "is to see all of Latin America transformed into democracies like the U.S.," he says.

Donations to Freedom's Friends are spent exclusively on medical supplies, providing surgical gloves, syringes, disposable scalpels, bandages, drugs and antiseptics for the Contras.

Volunteers in Dallas, usually well-dressed society matrons and successful businessmen, spend hours each week writing addresses on fundraising envelopes, licking stamps and sealing packages of medical supplies.

Some have accompanied the shipments to Nicaragua and say they feel kinship with the Contras. They describe the rebels as middle-class citizens who lost their businesses, farms and families under Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega's government.

"I can very easily put myself in the place of some of those women," said Sherry Bell, 45, a Dallas homemaker and president of the local chapter of Eagle Forum, a conservative political group for affluent women.

"They were just like us with nice homes, working husbands, bank accounts and credit cards. Now they're living in tents."

Some members of Freedom's Friends say their efforts are needed to fight a spiritual war as well as a political one.

"My main hope is that these people will embrace Jesus Christ at the same time they embrace freedom," said Joan Whisenand, 35, the wife of a Dallas engineer who also donates bibles to tuck into the boxes shipped to the Contras.

Murray has also waged a war against his mother, atheist activist Madalyn Murray O'Hair.

Estranged from his family for the past eight years, he was the 14-year-old plaintiff in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1963 prohibiting prayer in private schools.

He later served as a top executive with his mother's Texas-based Society of Separationists.

Murray "found" religion in 1980 and began a ministry to convert others to Christianity. Today Murray believes he has found his true calling.

adjoining grounds of the palace of Crown Prince Akihito.

One was blocked by a hastily thrown police net. Another stuck in its launcher, police said.

The sole casualty in both attacks was a policeman who was taken to hospital with burns.

Three of the 26 to 30 known left-wing radical groups in Japan have been implicated in the rocket raids.

All the groups have pledged to upset the summit, which they denounce as a festival of capitalism, and the April 29 celebrations of the reign of the emperor, whom they blame for leading Japan into World War II.

The rockets consist of old spray-can tubes filled with petrol, mounted on wooden sticks and launched from metal pipes by charges of old-fashioned gunpowder. A lucky shot can travel about 1,000 metres.

"They are more like fireworks at a carnival," one government official said. "They could do damage, but are mainly meant to look spectacular."

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SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY. The New York Rangers put together a textbook skating performance and scored hard work to beat the New York Devils 9-4 and strengthened their position in the NHL's Patrick Division playoff race. The victory gives the Rangers a three-point lead over Pittsburgh in the race for the fourth and final playoff spot in the division.

Winnipeg scored a 5-2 victory over the Los Angeles Kings that clinched a playoff berth for the Jets.

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Let my people know

Leah Abramowitz learns about the activities of Wujs—the World Union of Jewish Students.



David Makovsky, chairman of Wujs. A protest the organization sponsored at the recent World Jewish Congress session in Jerusalem.

IN A LITTLE hut behind the Terra Sancta building in Jerusalem there is a constant beehive of activity in the office of Wujs, the World Union of Jewish Students. Whether preparing for a demonstration on behalf of Soviet Jewry, or enlisting idealistic young people to volunteer for a year's service in a small Jewish community at risk, sending out representatives to international student congresses or arranging meetings with key Jewish officials, the office is a hive of activity at all hours of the day and night.

Wujs is a surprisingly old organization. Albert Einstein, Chaim Weizmann, and Chaim Nahman Bialik were among its earliest members when Jewish students were primarily concerned with fighting anti-Semitism and the quota system limiting Jewish students at European universities.

In 1968 the headquarters moved to London from Paris when France turned increasingly anti-Zionist. In that year the North American Jewish students' organization became an affiliate, and the central board decided to open a Wujs Educational Centre in Arad to help integrate young people into Israel and add Jewish content. By 1972 the union had turned so left that the World Zionist Organization expelled it for several years. In 1979, after returning to the Zionist fold, Wujs moved its headquarters to Jerusalem to symbolize its recognition of the centrality of Israel.

Today, the organization consists of 36 branches. Representatives of the five continents comprise an international board that meets periodically, and at least once every three years there is an international congress in Israel.

DAVID MAKOVSKY, 25, the dynamic and highly articulate chairman of Wujs, has introduced some sparkling innovations into the organization since his assumption of the post in 1984. Born in St. Louis, to a religious Zionist family, he became interested in world Jewish student activities while a student at Yeshivat Hakotel in Jerusalem. Later, studying journalism and international affairs at Columbia University, he became deeply involved in the struggle for Soviet Jewry. Wujs recently organized a highly successful inter-

national conference on the issue in Beersheba, with participants from 15 countries. It decided to launch a general world campaign, with new programmes for political action on behalf of Jews wishing to leave the USSR. But undoubtedly its most dramatic activity to date was the occupation of the Aeroflot office in Geneva during the summit meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev in that city.

And 1,000 members of Wujs demonstrated at Bitburg in 1984, when President Reagan insisted on visiting the graves of Nazi soldiers. But Makovsky insists that political action

is not enough. "You can't have 'Let My People Go' without 'Let My People Know,'" he says. The challenge for the present generation is knowledge and self-identity. He feels strongly that without a thorough understanding of Judaism, one cannot develop a Jewish leadership or a vibrant Jewish future.

WUJS HAS developed several imaginative educational programmes. To celebrate the 800th anniversary of the birth of Maimonides, students from 21 countries travelled to Spain for a conference in Cordoba on his teachings and philosophy. For the

first time, students from East European countries were permitted to participate in one of its gatherings.

Wujs was among the first organizations to publicize the plight of Ethiopian Jews and lobby for their aliyah. Once they arrived, students from Israel and abroad were in the forefront of volunteer welcoming and integration efforts.

It is now in the process of setting up project Arcivim (Responsible Ones), with a one-year programme of voluntary service to a small Jewish community. The idea originated in 1977, and operated for nearly five

years on a limited scale in nine countries.

About a dozen young persons are being chosen from about 60 applicants to undergo a comprehensive training course that will enable them to start operating. It is hoped, in September. At the recent World Jewish Congress assembly in Jerusalem, representatives from Holland, Spain, Morocco, Paraguay, Peru and Hong Kong asked for volunteers. The host community is required to cover board, lodging and expenses; the Pincus Foundation and other funds will cover transportation and medical insurance.

IN ADDITION to its political action and educational aims, the union also has an important representational task at national forums. Makovsky is proud of the fact that lately, with the right contacts and proper approach, a traditionally anti-Israel approach has been avoided at international student gatherings. At the UNESCO World Congress on Youth in Barcelona last summer and again at the Youth Conference in Kingston, Jamaica, consensus and cooperation were the theme, rather than condemnation of Israel.

On the other hand, Wujs was the only student organization not invited to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students held in Moscow last year. A number of active Jewish students did manage to participate as representatives of other groups. Every time they tried to defend Israel or remind the delegates of human rights and implied racism, the microphones mysteriously went dead or translators took their lunch break. Nevertheless, they managed to meet with refusniks and make their presence felt.

Wujs was very active at the World Jewish Congress assembly, and Makovsky was made a member of its executive. The organization works closely with the Student Division of the World Zionist Organization and practically all other major Jewish bodies, despite its propensity for stirring up storms.

"We try to prod the establishment," Makovsky admits, but he also sees the importance of diplomacy.

THE UNION embraces students from all circles: religious and secular, left and right wing, doves and hawks. It is careful to avoid any political affiliation and partisan approach. It is not even officially a Zionist organization, so it may maintain links with Jewish youth of the West and East alike. Nevertheless, the Cardiff (Wales) University students union recently banned the Wujs branch there on the grounds that it was sympathetic to Zionism and therefore—as stated in the 1975 UN resolution—racist.

The French Jewish student movement joined forces with North African Arab students against a political leader who advocated an anti-

immigration law. In return, the Arab students joined the local Wujs branch in protesting over Bitburg and against Soviet anti-Jewish policy.

In South Africa, Jewish students are in the forefront of the anti-apartheid movement, whereas in the U.S. and Canada the student organizations combine with other Jewish movements on campus, such as Hill-el, to focus on education, anti-terrorism and political action.

For example, during the recent congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Wujs organized a Soviet Jewry Solidarity week during which seminars were held all over the world, and a pray-in was organized at the Western Wall.

When Reagan and Gorbachev meet in Washington, Wujs wants to hold a march on Washington of 100,000 Jews, young and old, to participate in a "Cry for Human Rights."

Despite all this activity, Makovsky cautions that the proportion of students committed to such projects is minimal.

Of the 435,000 Jewish students in the U.S., only 20,000-30,000 are active in any Jewish framework.

As far as Israel is concerned, only 1,500 are doing a one-year university course and some 6,000 are to be found in yeshivot, kibbutzim, or involved in other programmes. "The majority prefer to study medicine in Granada or humanities in Paris and opt out silently from the Jewish people," says Makovsky.

He believes that a dramatic change in priorities would make a big difference. If the community organizations would put a premium on youth, devote effort and money to educational and social programmes and "stop funding Jews, start funding Judaism," the statistics could become more positive.

He suggests a kind of Marshall Plan for Jewish communities at risk: send students to Israel for a year to assure the continuation of a Jewish community in the future.

"Jewish awareness, or in fact Jewish education, is not as 'sexy' an issue or as exciting as some of the other projects we're facing today," he says, "but in fact it is the most vital matter before us all— young and old."

EXPANDING HORIZONS

TODAY is the 90th anniversary of the death of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Spektor of Kovno, Lithuania, whose name was given to the yeshiva in New York that was the nucleus of what is today Yeshiva University, the centennial of which is being marked this year.

This year, too, the U.S. Postal Service honoured Yeshiva U. by issuing a regular postage stamp with the likeness of Dov Bernard Revel (1885-1940), who set the institution on its path of growth during his presidency from 1915 till his death. The stamp was designated as part of the Great American Series, and its design was unveiled at a convocation held on Revel's hundredth birthday late last year.

Revel was born in Pren, a suburb of Kovno. His father, Rabbi Nahum Shraga, was the community's spiritual leader and an intimate friend of Rabbi Spektor.

The young Dov received his early education from his father. Following the latter's death in 1896, Dov continued his studies in Kovno and also attended the Yeshiva of Telz, Lithuania. Ordained in 1901 when he was only 16, he also studied Jewish history and philosophy, and mastered secular subjects on his own.

Revel also became involved in the revolutionary activity prevalent in Russia during this period. During the Russian Revolution of 1905, when general strikes and demonstrations—more political than economic—partially paralysed the empire, many people were arrested by the Tsarist government. Revel was

Aaron Rakeffet-Rothkoff recounts the role of Dov Bernard Revel in the making of Yeshiva University.

among the thousands of agitators for reform who were detained. After his release, he emigrated to the U.S., where his half sister already lived.

On his arrival in the U.S., Revel enrolled in the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary on New York's lower East Side. Here he was discovered by Rabbi Bernard Levinthal, the unofficial chief Orthodox rabbi of Philadelphia during one of the latter's frequent visits to the school. Levinthal, enthralled by the young Revel's command of rabbinic literature, after a while persuaded Revel to come to Philadelphia to serve as his secretary and assistant. During this period, Revel also pursued advanced secular studies at Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania. He got an MA from New York University in 1909, after submitting a research paper on the philosophy of the *Hovot Halevavot* of Bahya Ibn Pakuda, the medieval Spanish Jewish philosopher. Three years later he became the first graduate of Dropsie College in Philadelphia, getting a PhD for a thesis rebutting the contention that the Karaites tradition was a continuation of the original and ancient *Halakha*.

In 1909 Revel married Sarah Travis of Marietta, Ohio. After receiving his doctorate, Revel joined his wife's family in the petroleum industry in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Bernard immersed himself in business and Talmudic studies while Sarah busied herself with their two young sons.

Meanwhile, in New York, the Yeshivat Etz Haim and the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary decided to merge. The former had been organized in 1886 to provide advanced Tora study in addition to elementary general education for immigrant youngsters. The latter was established in 1896 as a more advanced yeshiva for the graduates of Etz Haim.

The directorate of the combined schools proposed that Bernard Revel head the new institution. They knew that Revel's Talmudic scholarship and general erudition would enhance its future development.

In the summer of 1915, the Revel family moved to New York, and plans were made for the yeshiva's development. The following year, Revel opened the Talmudical Academy High School, the first American high school under Jewish auspices where both general and religious subjects were taught. Revel also turned his attention to the reorganization of the yeshiva's curriculum and faculty. In addition to the stress on Talmud and codes, classes were introduced in Jewish history, homiletics and pedagogy. The yeshiva sought to graduate rabbis who could meet the challenges facing Tora in the U.S. In 1919, it ordained the first five graduates trained entirely under the new programme.

These initial successes motivated Revel to evolve an even greater goal for the yeshiva. He called for the opening of a four-year liberal arts

college. Revel felt that such an institution would be "the natural development of the Talmudical Academy High School." Following a successful fund-raising campaign which enabled the construction of a massive new yeshiva building in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, Yeshiva College opened its doors in 1928. The entire yeshiva was now at the new location.

While expanding the yeshiva's vistas, Revel also laboured to attain a pre-eminent faculty. He was not satisfied simply with reorganizing the yeshiva; he wanted it to be the equal of its East European prototypes.

Revel succeeded in bringing Rabbi Shlomo Polachek to the U.S. in 1922. Known as the *Meitchev ilui* (the prodigy of Meitchev) Polachek was a leading disciple of Rabbi Haim Soloveitchik in Volozhin and Brisk. After Polachek's death in 1928, Revel brought Rabbi Moshe Soloveitchik to the United States. The eldest son of Rabbi Haim of Brisk, Reb Moshe was highly regarded as a fountainhead of Tora scholarship and the master of his father's unique method of Talmudic exposition. He was to remain with the yeshiva until his death in 1941. He was then succeeded by his eldest son, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, who also holds a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Berlin.

THE new institution in Washington Heights had hardly been dedicated when it was engulfed by serious financial problems. The stock market crash came on October 29, 1929,



Procession at the 1940 ordination of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Yeshiva, led by Dr. Revel (left). Others: Rabbis Avraham Selmanowitz and Moshe Soloveitchik.

and not only was the yeshiva's current income reduced but the depression also caused many contributors to renege on the unpaid portions of their pledges to the building campaign. Faculty salaries were cut and even the new meagre amounts were not paid on time.

It was Revel's selfless example that held the staff together during this period. Although his contract called for a salary of \$10,000 a year, he took only \$4,000. Later in the depression years, Revel took only \$3,600 and insisted that the remaining \$400 be paid to a faculty member who was, he felt, in greater need. This self-denial came at a time when his family's wealth had been totally depleted due to the monopolistic business practices of Standard Oil.

Despite these difficulties, Revel continued to expand the yeshiva's

horizons. In 1937 he organized a graduate department in advanced Jewish and cognate studies. He used the money bequeathed to him by Mever Vesell, a member of the yeshiva's directorate, to appoint Rabbi Samuel Belkin, PhD of Brown University, to head the new division. The graduate department was later renamed the Bernard Revel Graduate School in 1941, and Belkin went on to become the second president of what is today Yeshiva University.

The tribulations of this era contributed to a steady decline in Revel's health. The ever-increasing difficulties of European Jewry also contributed to his anxieties and worries. On December 2, 1940, Bernard Revel died at age 55 after suffering a final stroke. His last words to his wife were "I hope you lived long

enough with me not to resent the fact that I shall not live long. You don't measure life by the yardstick of years, but by accomplishments and achievements. It was my privilege to serve God, the Tora, and the children of the Tora."

Yeshiva University, the flagship of Tora Judaism in the western world, remains an everlasting monument to the vision and dedication of Bernard Revel.

The writer is professor of responsa literature at the Caroline and Joseph S. Gross Kollel of Yeshiva University in Jerusalem and author of *Revel: Builder of American Jewish Orthodoxy and The Silver Era: Rabbi Eliezer Silver and his Generation*.

The Jewish World page is edited by Moshe Kohn

TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

TELEVISION

EDUCATIONAL:
8.15 School Broadcasts 14.00 Film on an Indian tribe 15.00 Everyman's University: Classical Greece 16.00 No Secrets 16.20 TV Game 16.45 Economic Problems 17.00 A New Evening—live magazine

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES:
17.30 Somersaults

ARABIC LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES:
18.30 News roundup
18.32 Entertainment special
19.00 Agriculture Today
19.30 News

HEBREW PROGRAMMES resume at 20.00 with a news roundup
20.02 Between the Chairs—bi-weekly magazine
20.30 Tazpit—science and technology magazine
21.00 Mabat Newsweek
21.30 Mabat
22.05 Mabat Yesterday: George Cukor's 1950 American comedy stars Judy Holiday and Broderick Crawford
23.45 News

JORDAN TV (unofficial):
17.30 Cartoons 18.00 French Hour 19.30 Another Life 20.00 News in Arabic
20.30 Theatre's Company 21.10 20.30 Theatre's Company 21.10 Documentary 22.00 News in English
22.50 Falcon Court

MIDDLE EAST TV (from T.A. north):
13.00 Woody Woodpecker 13.30 Another Life 14.00 700 Club 14.30 Shape-Up 15.00 Afternoon Movie 16.30 Spider-Man 17.00 Super Book 17.30 Muppet
18.00 Buck Rogers 19.00 News 20.00 A-Team 21.00 Another Life 21.30 Remington Steele 22.30 Cagney & Lacey
23.30 700 Club 00.00 Genesis Project

ON THE AIR

Voice of Music
6.02 Morning Melodies

7.07 Albanitz: Piano Piece; Lalo: Spanish Rhapsody
7.30 Mozart: Symphony in B-flat major (Israel Youth Orchestra, Pablo Casals conducting, 1973); Debussy: Images (Marianne Szeles: "The Three-Cornered Hat" (New York/Roulet); Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnole (Ormandy)

8.30 Arielle: Symphony: Beethoven; Sonata, Op. 60 (Casals, Serkin); Lalo: Cello Concerto (Navarra, Lamoureux/Munch); Granados: "Goyescas" (De Larrocha)

12.05 Sylvia Shamel, soprano; Yonatan Zak, piano—selection of songs by Schumann, Wolf, and others; Lucien Plamen, guitar—Bardot: 4 Pieces; Britten: Nocturnal, Op. 70

13.00 Fifth Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition—the First Day
15.00 Contemporary Music—Arthur Gold: Songs of Youth (Rosenberg, JSC/Robertson); Nigel Osborne; Musica de piazza (Gronich, Lear); Leon Schliowsky: Requiem

16.00 Noam Sheriff: "Hinech Yaffa Ray'at"; Debussy: Quartet (New Zurich); Schostakovich: Piano (Eltzinger, Seltsman); Mozart: Excerpts from "The Magic Flute" (Fischer-Dieskau, Lear, Kraus, Berlin)

18.30 Festival Louisiana 1986—Haydn: Overture; Swinford: "Solitude"; Paganini: Violin Concerto No. 4 (Kraemer); Prokofiev: Classical Symphony (Chamber Orchestra, Louisiana)

20.05 "Jazz and Classical Music"—6 "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"
21.00 Musicology: "The Wedding"; Copland: "The Second Hurricane"
22.00 Brahms: Song; Bach: Violin Concerto in E major (Perlman); Janacek: "In the Fog"; Brahms: Choir Song; Scott Joplin-Yitzhak Perlman: "The Entertainer" (Perlman, Perlman)

First Programme

6.05 Programmes for Olm
7.30 Favourite Old Songs
8.05 Compass—with Benny Henda
9.05 Hebrew songs

9.30 Encounter—live family magazine
10.30 Programme in Easy Hebrew
11.10 School Broadcasts
12.00 Oriental Song
13.00 News in English
13.30 News in French
14.00 Children's programmes
15.05 News on a New Book
16.05 Programme for Senior Citizens
17.00 Everyman's University
18.00 Evening News
19.00 Lesson in Hebrew
19.30 Programmes for Olm
22.05 A Friend from the Same Planet

Second Programme

6.12 Gymnastics
6.30 Official Review
6.53 Green Light—drivers' corner
7.00 This Morning—news magazine
8.05 Safe Journey
9.05 House Call—with Riva Michael
10.10 All Shades of the Network—morning magazine
12.10 Open Line—news, music
13.00 Midday—news commentary, music
14.00 Matter of Interest
15.10 Maple Moments
17.10 Economics Magazine
18.00 Spotlight
18.45 Today in Sport
19.05 Today and Radio newscast
19.35 Army and Defence Magazine
20.05 Folklore Magazine
21.05 Song for the Road
22.05 Stage and Screen
23.05 Night Games

Army

6.10 Morning Sounds
6.30 University on the Air
7.07 "707"—with Alex Ansky
8.05 Good Morning Israel
9.05 Right Now—with Rafi Rauber
11.05 The Old Days—with Orly Yaniv
15.05 What's Doing—with Erez Tel
16.05 Four in the Afternoon
17.05 Evening News
18.05 Employment Opportunities
19.05 Radio Radio
20.05 Foreign Language Hit Parade
21.00 Mabat—TV newscast
21.30 University on the Air (repeat)
22.05 Popular songs
23.05 From Germany to Jerusalem (repeat)
00.05 Night Birds—songs, chat

Cinema

JERUSALEM 4.30, 7.15, 9.30
Eden: Falling in Love; Edisons: To Live and Die in L.A.; Hebraia: No Milk Today; Kfir: Out of Africa; 9.45: 9. Mitzvah; La Historia Oficial: 7.9; Ory: Twice in a Lifetime; Orna: Red Sonja; Ron: Clockwork Orange 4.15, 6.45, 9.15; Semadar: Choose Me 7, 9.15; Shmueli: Ha'ama; Ron 8, 9; Raiz: Agnes: Mary Poppins 4; March 8.30; Amadeus 9.15; Dr. Strangelove 12 midnight; Cinema Theatre: Camilla 7; Broken Blossom 7 (small hall); Johnny Guitar 9.15 (small hall); Antoine et Colette and Balthus Vols 9.15; Israel Museum: People That Time Forgot 3.30

TEL AVIV 4.30, 7.15, 9.30
Albany: Silverado 4.45, 7.15, 9.30; Beit Leissai: A Soldier's Story 11.15 p.m.; No Milk Today; Red-Yelkies: No Milk Today; Chum 1; A Chorus Line 5.7.25, 9.45; Chum 2: Journey of Natty Gann 5.7.25, 9.45; Chum 3: Year of the Dragon 7, 9.40; Chum 4: The Sure Thing 10.30, 1.30, 4.45, 7.20, 9.40; Chum 5: Marie 5.45; Lady and the Tramp 4, 6.7.45; Cinema One: Back to the Future; Cinema Two: And the Ship Sails On 4.30, 7, 9.30; Debut: Ohi Calcutta! for details see p. 14 of magazine; Drive-In: The Lover 7.15, 9.30; sex film, 12 midnight; Edisons: Shoshana; Gert Twice in a Lifetime; Gardens: The Official Story; Road: Heavenly Bodies; Guitar 9.15 (small hall); Antoine et Colette and Balthus Vols 9.15; Israel Museum: People That Time Forgot 3.30

HAIFA
Amphitheatre: Heavenly Bodies 4.30, 7, 9.15; Armon: Shoshana 4.30, 6.45, 9.15; Armon: No Milk Today 4.30, 7, 9.15; Chum: White Nights 8.30, 9; Centre Cultural Francese: La Nuit Americaine 9.30; Ory: Out of Africa 5, 9; Ory: Sween Lake 6.30, 9; Peer Bonnie and Clyde 6.30, 9.15; Ron: Falling in Love 4.30, 6.45, 9; Shavit: The Real Story 7, 9; Rav-Gat 1: Twice in a Lifetime 4.30, 7, 9.15; Rav-Gat 2: Marie 4.30, 7, 9.15; Karm: Or Harachot; When Father Was Away on Business 4, 6.30, 9

RAMAT GAN
Armon: Silverado 7.30, 9.30; Lily: Purple Rose of Cairo 7.15, 9.30; Romancing the Stone 4.30; Orna: A Chorus Line 5.7.15, 9.30; Orna: Death Wish III 7.15, 9.30; Ramat Gan: The Falcon and the Snowman 7, 9.30; Rav-Gan 1: Twice in a Lifetime 5, 7.30, 9.40; Rav-Gan 2: Marie 5.7.30, 9.40; Rav-Gan 3: Year of the Dragon 4.15, 6.50, 9.30; Rav-Gan 4: Jagged Edge 5, 7.20, 9.45

HERZLIYA
Debut: 4.30, Milk Today 4.30, 7.30, 9.30; Debut: Out of Africa 6, 9; Tiferet: Doin' Time 7.15, 9.15

HOLON
Migdal: Doin' Time 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Savy: Falling in Love 4.30, 7.15, 9.30; Armon: Heavenly Bodies: When Father Was Away on Business 7, 9.30

BAT YAM
Armon: Falling in Love 4.30, 7.15, 9.30

GIVATAYIM
Hadar: Out of Africa 6, 9

RAMAT HASHARON
Kocher: El Norte 9.30 p.m.; Emerald Forest 7; Dersu Uzala 10.30 a.m.

WHAT'S ON

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 6.90 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 138 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM

Museums

ISRAEL MUSEUM. Exhibitions: Permanent Display of Israel Art © Dorothy Bohm, photographs © Art in Context, audio-visual programme showing development of Israel Art © Early 20th Century Posters, avant-garde posters © Traditional Jewish Jewellery, "Friendly Buttery", illustrations by Drah Eyal © From the Depths of the Sea (Rockefeller Museum) © Building in Jerusalem © The Cosmic and the Divine, Andean textiles, © Ancient Mirrors, display of Mirrors from Different Cultures, © "Nerot Mitzvah", ideas for Light in Jewish Ritual, © Pictographs: 14 artists present versions of surrounding landscapes (Paley Center, near Rockefeller Museum), © Permanent collection of archeology, Judaism and ethnic art, © Building Hours: Main Museum 10.45, At 11: Guided tour of Museum in English, 3.30: Children's film, "People that Time Forgot", 8.30 Kol Berama community with Shlomo Shavit and Yitzhak Hollander.

BAT YAM
Armon: Falling in Love 4.30, 7.15, 9.30

GIVATAYIM
Hadar: Out of Africa 6, 9

RAMAT HASHARON
Kocher: El Norte 9.30 p.m.; Emerald Forest 7; Dersu Uzala 10.30 a.m.

HERZLIYA
Debut: 4.30, Milk Today 4.30, 7.30, 9.30; Debut: Out of Africa 6, 9; Tiferet: Doin' Time 7.15, 9.15

Building, Buses 9, 26, 4a, 26 and 23 to the first underground stop. Further details: Tel. 02-862819.

AMIT WOMEN. (Formerly American Mizrahi Women). Free Morning Tours—8 Alkalat Street, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-869222. ORT. To visit our technological High Schools call Jerusalem 633141; Tel Aviv 386171, 233231, 240529; Netanya 23744.

TEL AVIV

Museums

TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Exhibitions: The Want of Matter, a Quality in Israel Art; 21 elite Israeli artists show work of last 25 years. The Museum's collection of classical, impressionist, post-impressionist and contemporary art. Museum Visiting Hours: Sun-Thur. 10-2; 5-9. Sat. 11-2; 7-10. Fri. closed. Helena Rubinstein Pavilion: Exhibition of Works by Scholarship Winners of 1985 Sharet Scholarship Programme.

Conducted Tours
AMIT WOMEN (Formerly American Mizrahi Women). Free Morning Tours—Tel Aviv, Tel. 220187, 233154.
WIZO. To visit our projects call Tel Aviv, 232338; Jerusalem, 220606; Haifa, 88817.
PIONEER WOMEN—NA'AMAT. Morning tours. Tel Aviv, 210791, Jerusalem 244878.

HAIFA
Museums
HAIFA MUSEUM. 26 Shabat Levy St. Tel. 04-523255. Exhibitions: Modern Art—Rouven Rubin, the portrait in his work of the Second Temple Period, Egyptian textiles, terracotta figurines, Shikmona costumes 20 personal pieces from the Feia and Natan Celnik collection, U.S.A. Open: 9-8. Ticket includes admission to National Maritime, Prehistory and Japanese Art Museums.

Miscellaneous
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-640840.

Give Soldiers Lifts!

Pitfalls of buying a gov't company

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A tricky problem is liable to shock any potential buyer of a government company, such as Paz Petroleum or Cables of Zion. For he is not only buying a company, he is "buying a plant which has workers," says Zeev Refua, director-general of the Government Companies Authority.

If the past is any indication of the future, the workers will demand to be paid a considerable "ownership transfer fee" by the new owner when he takes control. This will be so even if he agrees to continue to employ the entire staff at the same conditions they enjoyed until now — or even better ones. This phase of Israeli business life is enough to scare away any foreign buyer.

"It is totally unfair and unjust for the workers to demand such a thing," Refua says again and again. But he admits that fairness and justice are one thing; Israeli realities are another.

So there is little to be done, although a wise buyer would make his purchase conditional on no "ownership transfer fee" being demanded. And what if the buyer demands to put in his own senior managers? Would the workers stand for this?

(One employee of Paz has already informed *The Jerusalem Post* that Paz won't be sold before he goes out on pension. This person is only middle-aged.)

All that has been said above in regard to Paz also applies to the sale of Cables of Zion, an affiliate of Israel Chemicals, whose situation is somewhat different, since it is also listed on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Since Israel Chemicals concentrates on such fields as potash, phosphates and bromine, which are all based on Israel's natural resources, Cables of Zion (power, telephone,

electric cables, etc.) has little connection with Israel Chemicals' main activities, and thus does not fit into the general set-up of the conglomerate.

A proposal of sale has already been published and ten replies have been received, five from the U.S., one from England, one from Australia, and three from Israel. Since 30 per cent of the shares of Cables of Zion is being traded on the stock market, and 70 per cent is in the hands of Israel Chemicals, a six-member committee has been set up to sell it. Three of the representatives are from Israel Chemicals and three from the government (Refua is chairman).

"We want the buyer to be a specialist in the field, and to have excellent marketing connections, so he can step up sales and create more jobs. If he can promise this, we will consider taking not necessarily the highest bidder, but even the one who is a bit lower," says Refua.

How much is Cables of Zion worth? There is a vast difference between the lowest valuation and the highest. Estimates range from a low \$12 million to a high \$25m., although some experts think the company is worth \$30m.

The Government Companies Authority also wants to sell part of its equity in several other companies. These include Bromine (an Israel Chemicals company), Elta (high-tech), Bezek, and others. The plan is for the government to retain control while using the fresh money to develop these companies.

But since control in these companies will remain in government hands, a double problem emerges here, namely, paragraph 4A of the Government Companies Regulations.

This paragraph states clearly that each government company must be conducted as a "profit-making busi-

ness unless the government rules otherwise." This is enough to make any potential buyer think many times before he puts down his money.

What will happen to his profits if the government decides that the high-tech company in which he buys a 10 or 20 per cent share, which is now making a nice profit in city "A," should be moved at great expense to development town "B" to ease the employment problem of unskilled workers there? This investor will never see a profit for many years. The workers have to be trained, the transfer will cost a fortune and a new building must be constructed.

Paragraph 4A also states that the government will determine whether dividends are allocated from profits, or if profits will be ploughed back into expansion. Some investors want high dividends, others want no dividends but growth. But above all, an investor wants to decide what to do with his money, without government intervention.

Refua notes that at present there is a bill before the Knesset which says that if a government company goes public, it will be exempt permanently from these conditions.

Finally, how does one go about buying a government company which is not yet on the list of those up for sale? One can approach Refua directly or one may apply for information at the offices of the Task Force ("Operation Independence") abroad.

Offers have already been received for three firms. All have growth potential, all are in high-technology fields. All three are not profitable today, but have great future potential.

Refua refuses to reveal the names of these companies, the country of origin of the interested parties, or in what fields these companies are active.

(Third and final article in a series.)



Overview of the new container quay.

(Israel Sun)

Haifa's new \$90m. container terminal now being run in

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The super-modern new \$90 million container terminal at the eastern end of Haifa port is now being run in on a trial basis — nearly 15 years after the project was started.

Built entirely on land reclaimed from the sea, the 300-dunam terminal can berth two large container ships along 450 metres of quay, with another 200 metres for berthing bulk cargo ships.

"The project has shown that reclaimed land is very much cheaper than existing real estate," Ports Authority spokesman Yair Bar-Mashiah told *The Jerusalem Post*.

At a relatively low cost, the new quay can quickly be expanded, if necessary, Bar-Mashiah said.

Construction included the lengthening of the port's main breakwater by 600 metres to protect the new

quay. This work, however, was held up by a three-year freeze of finances, ordered by the government.

The terminal has been equipped with two large gantry cranes and five derricks, manufactured largely by the Kadmany Brothers Metal Works in the Druse village of Yirka. The mechanical parts that are not made here were imported from Germany.

The terminal, which is to be officially inaugurated in two months, has the country's deepest berths. At 13.5 metres, they can accommodate container ships and bulk carriers of up to 70,000 tons.

Container handling is totally computerized and plans call for the future computerization of the cranes as well.

Until the Dagon silo berth inside the port is deepened, the quay handles the big grain ships for lightening, to make their draft shallow enough for them to berth at the silo.

Astounding revelations in the French press

PARIS (AP). — Listeners to the France Inter-Radio network yesterday learned the astonishing news that Italian automaker Fiat has signed an agreement to buy the French state-run Renault car company.

Observers speculated that the Fiat-Renault story, and a number of other major revelations in the press, may have been related to the date, and what the French call "April Fools."

Among Fiat's alleged plans for Renault, which last week posted a report of 1.92 billion francs (\$1.56b.) in losses, was to build a new car, to be called FIRE (after Fiat and Renault).

The new model will be styled after the Fiat Fiat 500 and, among other things, have a plastic body.

The Parisian reported exclusively

that a protocol had been signed to dismantle the Eiffel Tower and move it to the new Disneyland site east of Paris. In the tower's place, a 35,000-seat stadium will be built for the 1992 Olympic games.

The conservative daily *Le Figaro* revealed that former defence minister Charles Hernu, who resigned last year during the scandal that followed the sinking of an anti-nuclear protest ship by French agents in New Zealand, would offer himself in exchange for the two agents now imprisoned in Auckland.

"I owe them that much," Hernu was quoted as saying of the pair, now serving 10-year sentences for their role in the sabotage. He added that he counted on new conservative Premier Jacques Chirac to obtain his release.

West German inflation falls to 27-year low

WIESBADEN (Reuters). — West Germany's annual inflation rate, carried down by the drop in oil prices and a weak dollar, hit a 27-year low of 0.1 per cent this month, the Federal Statistics Office has announced.

The provisional cost-of-living figure calculated on returns from the four most populous states appeared to support a prediction by a leading

West German bank that annual inflation could enter the minus column briefly this spring.

A Statistics Office spokesman said it was the lowest since June 1959, when the inflation rate declined to minus 0.4 per cent, and was mainly due to the fall in oil prices and the value of the dollar.

Treasury report on fiscal 1985/86

Satisfaction that NIS 538m. was mopped up from the public

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Finance Reporter

The government absorbed NIS 538 million from the public during fiscal 1985/86 instead of injecting NIS 1.1 billion into the economy, as had originally been planned in last year's budget, the Treasury announced yesterday. The figures showed that the economic measures decided on by the cabinet last year had been carried out in full, the statement added.

The Finance Ministry said that in March the government had absorbed NIS 74m. from the public. It added that it had raised a net sum of NIS 82m. in the capital market, half of it from Treasury bills. This figure was partially offset by an excess of government spending over revenue to the tune of NIS 8m.

In a related development, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday that the country's foreign currency reserves had dropped by \$77m. At the end of the month the reserves stood at \$3b.

Commenting on the monetary absorption during the year, the Treasury said it stemmed from two developments. First, there was an increase in government revenue from taxes and levies. Secondly, there was a larger than planned sale of government bonds and participation in savings schemes.

The Treasury also said that during the last fiscal year the level of government spending was in accordance with budget provisions and that there had been a reduction in the amounts spent on export incentives.

Treasury Budget Department Director Aharon Fogel said that the

budget figures prove that the full implementation of cabinet decisions regarding budget cuts had been crucial in improving the economic situation during 1985.

He added that the recent decisions regarding money injections in the areas of health, defence, settlement and industry had returned the country to the unhealthy situation that existed on the eve of the launching of the economic stabilization plan. The ministry is now trying to determine what steps are needed to put the country back on the right track.

The ministry released tax revenue figures which showed that in fiscal 1985/86 it had collected NIS 12.2b., an increase of 1.7 per cent over the previous year.

Revenue from income tax totalled about \$6.7b. in 1985/86, 6.4 per cent more than in the previous year. The ministry said that last fiscal year there had been a marked drop in tax payments by wage earners, which decreased by 20 per cent. At the same time there was an increase of 42 per cent in tax revenue stemming from firms and the self-employed.

As a result of these developments the weight of payments by the business sector increased from 45 per cent of the total in 1984/85 to 59 per cent last year.

The figures also showed that revenue from the levy on private cars and the stocks and equipment of business firms had totalled NIS 216m.

Taxes on imports brought in NIS 1.3b. last year, 5.3 per cent more than in 1984/85. Value Added Tax came to NIS 2.9b., 2.4 per cent more than the year before.

Baptist book shop won't pay tour guides — so they shun it

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The refusal by the Baptist Book Store in East Jerusalem to pay commissions to tour guides is resulting in a 50-75 per cent loss of business, according to the Reverend David Dupriest.

Speaking to *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday, Dupriest, who is a member of the Baptist Foreign Mission, said that customers who came on their own to the store, revealed that the tour guides of their groups had refused to bring them.

When requests were made to visit the Baptist Book Store, Dupriest said, the guides often gave the excuse that the shop was not open, or the prices were too high or that the management had moved the shop to some far-away location.

The management has complained to the Ministry of Tourism, and was reportedly told that if proof could be furnished against specific tour guides, their licences would be withdrawn.

"You can't get anyone to write down on a piece of paper," said Dupriest. "That they will not come to the shop if they do not receive a commission." However, the fact remains that tour guides of all denominations are not escorting groups to the Baptist Book Store.

Some tour guides, on the other hand, complain that certain merchants in the Old City are harassing groups and using threatening and foul language when the groups go past their stores without buying anything.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...
while 15 years ago over half the population in the territories was illiterate, today only 25 per cent still fall in that category. (Labour Ministry)

TOURISM BRIEFS

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

ONTARIO PREMIER David Peterson has sent an Ontario maple tree to Israel on El Al's inaugural non-stop Toronto-Tel Aviv flight, whose passenger contingent included the JNF leadership of Canada. The maple tree will be planted today by the Canadian ambassador in the JNF Peace Forest in Jerusalem. In honour of the new route, the JNF has announced that in future all Canadians participating in JNF tree-planting projects in Israel will be provided with a sapling free of charge. The usual fee is from \$5-\$7.

THE ISRAEL BONDS people try to spread their business as far afield as possible to give several hotels an opportunity to boost their revenues. During the current Israel Bonds International Conference — the 35th — the Jerusalem-based events are being held in four different hotels — Ramada Renaissance, Diplomat, Hilton and Laromme.

NORWAY CASHES IN on the forthcoming Eurovision song contest, or to be more specific, its fjord capital



Avi Hedvat

of Bergen is organizing several concurrent events to bring song lovers, sports fans, finance and travel writers to Norway. The list of festivities includes a tennis tournament, fjord cruises with an escort flotilla of Viking ships, and mystery excursions by bus. There will also be a grand prix

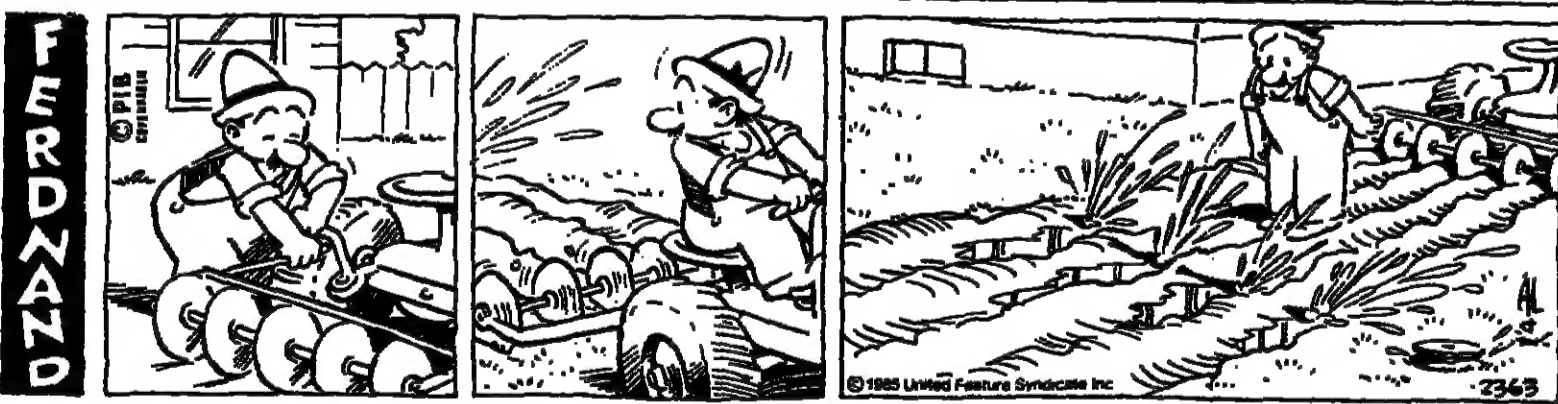
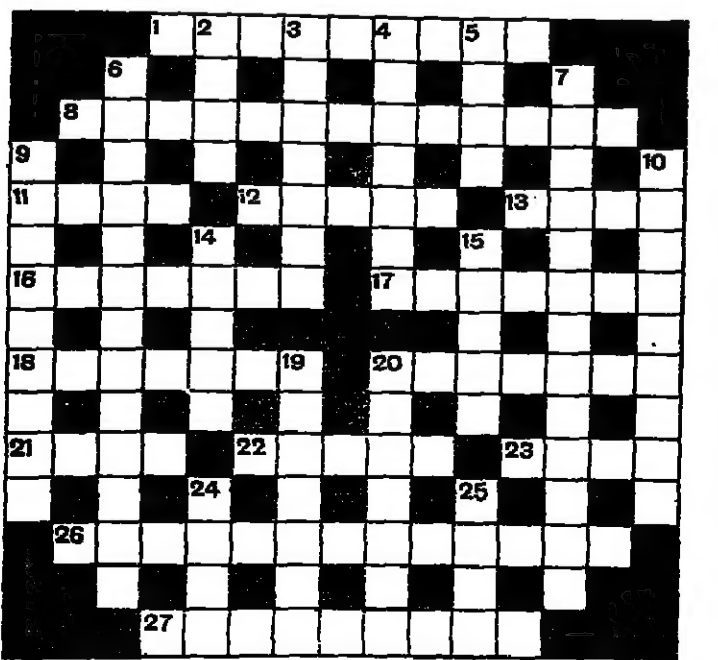
derby at the Bergen trotting course, open air concerts, free-style water-skiing for the European Cup and many other festivities, all crammed into the week beginning April 26.

THE RAMADA CONTINENTAL in Tel Aviv has turned into a temporary music centre. The hotel is hosting the contestants in the prestigious Rubinstein competitions, which have attracted the most promising young pianists from Israel and abroad. Some of the contest judges are also staying at the Ramada Continental.

AVI HEDVAT, executive chef at the Tel Aviv Plaza, travelled to South Africa as a member of the Israeli team participating in an international culinary competition, in which Israel took third place. Germany and South Africa scored higher points than Israel, but the Israeli team did better than that of the U.S. Also tagging behind Israel were the teams of Japan, England, Portugal and France. In toto, Avi Hedvat brought home six gold medals, three silver medals, one bronze medal and a winning cup.

ONE-ON-ONE CROSSWORD

- | | |
|--|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Pet to account for a bird (9) | 2 Look around European capital for a victim (4) |
| 8 It hasn't been here long (6, 7) | 3 Nothing at breakfast but a cereal (7) |
| 11 Pine for work in the Middle East (4) | 4 Sounds a place near the Isle of Dogs (7) |
| 12 The girl Alice put out (5) | 5 Put down face up (4) |
| 13 Sound perhaps, but only a little one (4) | 6 Style of architecture that may be dropped (13) |
| 16 He illustrated a number Mr Kinnock could adjust to (7) | 7 Don's a Londoner, and one of the best (7, 6) |
| 17 Animosity to a six-footer, however chivalrous (7) | 8 They practise the sincerest form of flattery (9) |
| 18 Working hard to get one fish (7) | 9 It could make a peach of a drink for the gods (9) |
| 20 A match for the morning star (7) | 10 Short male of note on the staff (5) |
| 21 Rake round in the French way (4) | 11 Not fully extended during disastrous lack of work? (5) |
| 22 Drink that may strike one as comic (5) | 12 Sweetener for Greek island in a fix (7) |
| 23 Plain one-off scheme (4) | 13 Found cold tea out of place (7) |
| 26 Fixed charge arranged by Joe Barrett of Holyhead (4, 5, 3, 3) | 14 Complaint about an overloud buzzer (4) |
| 27 Doesn't care for the conclusion giving displeasure (9) | 15 Sign of light inert gas (4) |



GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Tajar, 33 Koren Kayemet Lohar, 628893; Balsam, Salah Eddin, 272315; Shurafat, Shurafat Road, 810108; Dar Aldeha, Herod's Gate, 282058.

Tel Aviv: Lev Hef, 89 Ahad Ha'am, 613862; Kupat Holim Clinic, 7 Amsterdam, 226142.

Netanya: Truffa, 2 Herzl, 28856.

Haifa: Meuhedet, 6 Adir, 644231.

FIRST AID

Magen David Adom emergency phone numbers (round the clock service):

Ashdod 41233, Ashdod 23333, Bat Yam 9511111, Beersheba 74767, Carmiel 989655, Dan Region 781111, Elat 72233, Hadera 22333, Haifa 512233, Hatzor 36233, Holon 803133, Jerusalem 523133, Ashdod 23333, Bat Yam 9511111, Beersheba 74767, Carmiel 989655, Dan Region 781111, Elat 72233, Hadera 22333, Haifa 512233, Hatzor 36233, Holon 803133, Jerusalem 523133.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (pediatrics), Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, obstetrics, surgery, ophthalmology, ENT), Hadassah Mount Scopus (orthopedics).

Tel Aviv: Rotah (pediatrics, internal, surgery).

Netanya: Laniado.

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Yesterday's Solutions

ACROSS

1. HURT, 2. URGENT, 3. TYPHOON, 4. FROST, 5. EVIDENCE, 6. DETACHMENT, 7. AN, 8. I, 9. UNKNOWN, 10. ADAM, 11. GIBBO, 12. DART, 13. UN, 14. GIBBO, 15. DART, 16. THOUGHT, 17. TUESDAY, 18. V, 19. F, 20. T, 21. P, 22. A, 23. M, 24. O, 25. U, 26. G, 27. O, 28. U, 29. T, 30. H, 31. E, 32. A, 33. R, 34. T, 35. E, 36. A, 37. R, 38. T, 39. E, 40. A, 41. R, 42. T, 43. E, 44. A, 45. R, 46. T, 47. E, 48. A, 49. R, 50. T, 51. E, 52. A, 53. R, 54. T, 55. E, 56. A, 57. R, 58. T, 59. E, 60. A, 61. R, 62. T, 63. E, 64. A, 65. R, 66. T, 67. E, 68. A, 69. R, 70. T, 71. E, 72. A, 73. R, 74. T, 75. E, 76. A, 77. R, 78. T, 79. E, 80. A, 81. R, 82. T, 83. E, 84. A, 85. R, 86. T, 87. E, 88. A, 89. R, 90. T, 91. E, 92. A, 93. R, 94. T, 95. E, 96. A, 97. R, 98. T, 99. E, 100. A, 101. R, 102. T, 103. E, 104. A, 105. R, 106. T, 107. E, 108. A, 109. R, 110. T, 111. E, 112. A, 113. R, 114. T, 115. E, 116. A, 117. R, 118. T, 119. E, 120. A, 121. R, 122. T, 123. E, 124. A, 125. R, 126. T, 127. E, 128. A, 129. R, 130. T, 131. E, 132. A, 133. R, 134. T, 135. E, 136. A, 137. R, 138. T, 139. E, 140. A, 141. R, 142. T, 143. E, 144. A, 145. R, 146. T, 147. E, 148. A, 149. R, 150. T, 151. E, 152. A, 153. R, 154. T, 155. E, 156. A, 157. R, 158. T, 159. E, 160. A, 161. R, 162. T, 163. E, 164. A, 165. R, 166. T, 167. E, 168. A, 169. R, 170. T, 171. E, 172. A, 173. R, 174. T, 175. E, 176. A, 177. R, 178. T, 179. E, 180. A, 181. R, 182. T, 183. E, 184. A, 185. R, 186. T, 187. E, 188. A, 189. R, 190. T, 191. E, 192. A, 193. R, 194. T, 195. E, 196. A, 197. R, 198. T, 199. E, 200. A, 201. R, 202. T, 203. E, 204. A, 205. R, 206. T, 207. E, 208. A, 209. R, 210. T, 211. E, 212. A, 213. R, 214. T, 215. E, 216. A, 217. R, 218. T, 219. E, 220. A, 221. R, 222. T, 223. E, 224. A, 225. R, 226. T, 227. E, 228. A, 229. R, 230. T, 231. E, 232. A, 233. R, 234. T, 235. E, 236. A, 237. R, 238. T, 239. E, 240. A, 241. R, 242. T, 243. E, 244. A, 245. R, 246. T, 247. E, 248. A, 249. R, 250. T, 251. E, 252. A, 253. R, 254. T, 255. E, 256. A, 257. R, 258. T, 259. E, 260. A, 261. R, 262. T, 263. E, 264. A, 265. R, 266. T, 267. E, 268. A, 269. R, 270. T, 271. E, 272. A, 273. R, 274. T, 275. E, 276. A, 277. R, 278. T, 279. E, 280. A, 281. R, 282. T, 283. E, 284. A, 285. R, 286. T, 287. E, 288. A, 289. R, 290. T, 291. E, 292. A, 293. R, 294. T, 295. E, 296. A, 297. R, 298. T, 299. E, 300. A, 301. R, 302. T, 303. E, 304. A, 305. R, 306. T, 307. E, 308. A, 309. R, 310. T, 311. E, 312. A, 313. R, 314. T, 315. E, 316. A, 317. R, 318. T, 319. E, 320. A, 321. R, 322. T, 323. E, 324. A, 325. R, 326. T, 327. E, 328. A, 329. R, 330. T, 331. E, 332. A, 333. R, 334. T, 335. E, 336. A, 337. R, 338. T, 339. E, 340. A, 341. R, 342. T, 343. E, 344. A, 345. R, 346. T, 347. E, 348. A, 349. R, 350. T, 351. E, 352. A, 353. R, 354. T, 355. E, 356. A, 357. R, 358. T, 359. E, 360. A, 361. R, 362. T, 363. E, 364. A, 365. R, 366. T, 367. E, 368. A, 369. R, 370. T, 371. E, 372. A, 373. R, 374. T, 375. E, 376. A, 377. R, 378. T, 379. E, 380. A, 381. R, 382. T, 383. E, 384. A, 385. R, 386. T, 387. E, 388. A, 389. R, 390. T, 391. E, 392. A, 393. R, 394. T, 395. E, 396. A, 397. R, 398. T, 399. E, 400. A, 401. R, 402. T, 403. E, 404. A, 405. R, 406. T, 407. E, 408. A, 409. R, 410. T, 411. E, 412. A, 413. R, 414. T, 415. E, 416. A, 417. R, 418. T, 419. E, 420. A, 421. R, 422. T, 423. E, 424. A, 425. R, 426. T, 427. E, 428. A, 429. R, 430. T, 431. E, 432. A, 433. R, 434. T, 435. E, 436. A, 437. R, 438. T, 439. E, 440. A, 441. R, 442. T, 443. E, 444. A, 445. R, 446. T, 447. E, 448. A, 449. R, 450. T, 451. E, 452. A, 453. R, 454. T, 455. E, 456. A, 457. R, 458. T, 459. E, 460. A, 461. R, 462. T, 463. E, 464. A, 465. R, 466. T, 467. E, 468. A, 469. R, 470. T, 471. E, 472. A, 473. R, 474. T, 475. E, 476. A, 477. R, 478. T, 479. E, 480. A, 481. R, 482. T, 483. E, 484. A, 485. R, 486. T, 487. E, 488. A, 489. R, 490. T, 491. E, 492. A, 493. R, 494. T, 495. E, 496. A, 497. R, 498. T, 499. E, 500. A, 501. R, 502. T, 503. E, 504. A, 505. R, 506. T, 507. E, 508. A, 509. R, 510. T, 511. E, 512. A, 513. R, 514. T, 515. E, 516. A, 517. R, 518. T, 519. E, 520. A, 521. R, 522. T, 523. E, 524. A, 525. R, 526. T, 527. E, 528. A, 529. R, 530. T, 531. E, 532. A, 533. R, 534. T, 535. E, 536. A, 537. R, 538. T, 539. E, 540. A, 541. R, 542. T, 543. E, 544. A, 545. R, 546. T, 547. E, 548. A, 549. R, 550. T, 551. E, 552. A, 553. R, 554. T, 555. E, 556. A, 557. R, 558. T, 559. E, 560. A, 5

MARKET PLACE

PINHAS LANDAU

Every one a winner

Roll up! Roll up! Place your bets. Never mind where and on what, every number comes up trumps!

Yes, sirree, that's how it is at the ever-popular Tel Aviv Casino - sorry, stock exchange - and yesterday's rises only show that this fiscal year has come in the way the last one went out - with rises across the board. There's no stopping this rocket once it has blasted off - unless some minister opens his mouth again.

If you haven't picked a winner, don't despair. Even though the professionals believe that the next correction is just around the corner, that's nothing more than a buying opportunity. And if the analysts say that hardly any issues are worth the prices they're quoted at - well that's their typical meaning, isn't it. Value, shmales, so long as the thing goes up every day.

And another thing, while we're talking about analysts. Did they predict Wall Street at 1,800, or the unbelievable boom in Milan, Paris and just about everywhere else? Of course they didn't. So what do they know anyway? And those places are full of goyim - so when our crowd gets going properly we'll show what we're made of. Where were you - in 1982?

FIGURES TO PROVE IT

To be less flippant, the figures for the main market sectors in the first quarter of 1986 make interesting reading.

First and foremost there was the dollar, which made zero progress against the shekel. This is perhaps the single most important statistic of all, the more so since no-one can predict where the dollar will be three months hence.

The other currencies were a different story, but for most Israelis these do not represent an effective investment alternative. For the record, the DM gained 5.7 per cent against the shekel.

What then of the consumer price index? That, too, has fallen on hard times. Assuming a 1.5 per cent index for March, the rate of inflation for the January-March period totalled 1.8 per cent, and this was reflected in the general bond index, which managed only 2.4 per cent over the quarter. And even that was the result of a 5.2 per cent jump in March itself, which wiped out the losses of January and February.

Furthermore, according to figures prepared by the Meltav investment company, an average investment in an unlinked shekel account (tapas, pakam or Treasury bill) would have brought about 5 per cent over the quarter.

Therefore, it becomes clear that the place to be - especially from February onwards, was the share market, or in mutual funds with a significant share element.

The General Share Index, weighed down by the laggardly dollar-linked bank shares, rose almost 15 per cent in the quarter. The non-bank index, however, more than doubled that achievement, rising 30.37 per cent. This was an overall result - including 49.42 per cent in the textile group and 44.19 per cent in the insurance sector, against a mere 4.23 per cent in the specialized financial institutions and 4.04 per cent in the electronic sector. The bank shares themselves managed 7.38 per cent.

Mutual funds, Meltav reports, without exception beat the target of 1.8 per cent as the expected rate of inflation. Out of 120 funds, 21 made between 1.8 and 5 per cent, 54 between 5 and 10 per cent, 14 managed 10-15 per cent and 31 beat the share index and achieved anywhere from 15 to 44 per cent.

The two top funds, Rakefet (44 per cent) and Savion (34.3 per cent) are both managed by Betuha, the private brokerage firm owned by Clal. The principle is clear - the shares were the winners by a very long way.

Compared to the non-bank index rise of 30.6 per cent, most of the share-oriented funds did well. This reinforces another well-known fact about the major fund groups - that their managers insist on keeping a healthy chunk of their assets in very liquid instruments. This caution weighs them down in the rankings, but allows them to operate more freely.

SWISSAIR'S new summer schedule includes two weekly flights to Luga Airport in Malta. The airport is only five kilometers outside Valetta. Though small in area, Malta is rich in history and tourist attractions. Among the latter is Hagar Qim, a 5,000-year-old temple, the stone blocks of which are said to weigh up to 20 tons each.

'Steinberg Law' kills profits of mortgage bank

By PINHAS LANDAU

Post Finance Reporter

Leumi Mortgage Bank this week reported a net loss for 1985 of NIS 776,000, compared to an equivalent profit figure of NIS 1,009,000 in the previous year. The loss came despite an operating profit of NIS 1,635,000 before tax - because taxes took 147 per cent of the profits and left the loss noted above.

The bank's results were, by any measurement, poorer than those for 1984. Even the pre-tax profit figures slumped 69 per cent from the NIS 5.4 million that was achieved in 1984. The balance sheet total also slipped, by 1 per cent, to NIS 1,319 billion, and the bank's capital fell 3.5 per cent, to NIS 21,255m. The loan portfolio, however, grew by over 10 per cent, to stand at NIS 663.5m.

Leumi Mortgage is not the first mortgage bank to report results showing a tax bite of over 100 per cent. In 1984, "only" 81 per cent of

the bank's profits went to the Treasury but, the bank's management notes, last year the "harsh" tax laws applying to mortgage banks were made more draconic than ever.

The primary cause of the worsening tax situation was the "Steinberg Law," the new income tax law passed last August that tightened tax paying from companies and self-employed. This lowered the degree of inflationary protection on shareholders equity from 100 to 90 per cent and also broadened the classifications of assets not entitled to protection from inflation.

In addition, items such as the "balancing levy," the "inventory levy" and surtax, as well as advance tax payments which were eroded by inflation, all contributed to the "unreasonable tax situation" - as Leumi Mortgage's management described their predicament, with admirable restraint.

Help to export the products of small high-tech firms

By MACABEE DEAN

TEL AVIV. - Negotiations are in an advanced stage with the economic ministries about setting up several high-tech "development and marketing" funds. These funds are designed to help local R & D projects get off the ground, Moshe Cohen, chairman of the Israel High-Tech Industries Association, said. The group is affiliated with the Manufacturers' Association.

Under the plan, these funds will sell "venture capital shares" to Israelis. The funds will allocate the money raised to specific industries, which have developed high-tech items but lack the financial means to develop them past the pilot plant stage and to launch a marketing campaign abroad.

The funds will probably be managed by the commercial banks. The actual allocation of the funds,

however, will be made by the office of the Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Industry and Trade on the basis of the results of existing R & D projects.

The Chief Scientist finances part of the costs of the development of these projects and thus has a good idea which projects are likely to succeed if developed further and properly marketed.

The main difficulty still to be resolved is granting investors in these funds tax benefits or even full exemptions. This means changing the present tax laws.

According to Cohen, there are 750 high-tech firms in Israel, but the majority of them are small. For example, a mere four per cent of these 750 firms do 70 per cent of all high-tech exports, while the remaining 96 per cent account for only 30 per cent.

Hongkong's new stock exchange opens

HONGKONG (Reuters). - Hongkong's Unified Stock Exchange will begin trading in a sleek new home today, ending a 10-year struggle to bring the British colony's four separate exchanges under a single roof.

The Unified Stock Exchange of Hongkong moves to glamorous Exchange Square, twin granite and glass towers along the waterfront in the heart of the financial district.

The single exchange will streamline stock trading now scattered on the Hongkong, Far East, Kam Ngan and Kowloon exchanges.

"By trading under a single roof, the stock market will be more orga-

nized, having one set of listing rules instead of four," an official said.

More than 900 members have paid the 100,000 dollar (U.S.\$12,800) fee to join the exchange, which has installed a computerized quotation system to replace the marking of prices by hand. But some brokers have criticized the exchange for not moving farther and faster into the future, as brokers will still trade with the help of a not-so-new device - the telephone.

Daily turnover on the four exchanges last year stood at only about 300m. dollars (U.S.\$38 million).

Doubts about the levy on pensioners

By TSIPPI KUPER

A senior National Insurance Institute official said this week he did not believe the government's proposal to impose a one-time levy on pensioners was feasible.

"I don't see how they can carry out the decision," said Shlomo Cohen, head of the NII pension planning department. "Do they intend to tax only pensions, or to include other sources of income? How can they collate the data on all pensioners, and which authority will collect the levy?"

The one-time levy on all pensioners with a minimum monthly income of NIS 800 was approved, by the cabinet on Sunday, together with an education levy and an extension of the levy on private cars. The Treasury expects revenue of \$16 million from the import on pensioners.

The Histadrut has in the past objected to proposals to tax its pension funds, so it is unlikely that it will volunteer any information on its beneficiaries, said Cohen.

He thought that the levy is an attempt by the government to back down gracefully from the proposals to tax pensions and slash seniority increments on NII old-age benefits.

Sole Boneh staffers strike over kitchen

HAIFA. - Some 400 staffers at the Sole Boneh building here started a wildcat strike yesterday in protest against the closure of the kitchen and dining room and the dismissal of 15 workers.

The employees, who fear the sackings herald a wave of dismissals as part of management's recovery programme for the ailing company, demonstrated outside the building in the morning. Several held placards saying "This is no April Fools' Day joke. Today the kitchen, tomorrow the rest of the building."

The strike does not have the support of the Haifa Labour Council.

THE BIG DEBTORS

WASHINGTON (Reuters). - The World Bank has listed the following major debtor countries, their outstanding debt and debt service (expressed in billions of dollars) and 1985 percentage growth in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

Country	Total debt 1985	Growth 1985/87
Argentina	50.8	20.4/12.7
Brazil	107.3	39.7/28.0
Chile	21.0	9.2/5.0
Colombia	99.0	44.2/27.2
Costa Rica	19.3	9.1/3.1
Dominican Republic	24.8	9.5/4.9
Ecuador	33.6	17.8/7.8
El Salvador	35.8	15.0/18.6

ISRAELI FINANCIAL DATA: ISRAEL EUROPE U.S.

Israel Money Markets April 1, 1986

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.25% per month
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	1.4	8-12.5%	8-12.5%	8-15%
HAPOLIM	13.3	10-12%	11-12%	12-12.5%
DISCOUNT	13.3	7-13%	7-13%	9-13%
MIZRAHI	18.2	12-19%	12-20%	12-18%
FIRST INT'L	12.3	6-13%	7-13%	6-13%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(TAPAS: demand deposit payable daily interest.
PAKAM: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH - FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of April 1)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	6.625	6.625	6.625
SGD	10.375	8.625	8.375
DMK	3.875	3.875	3.875
SFR	3.250	3.250	3.250
YEN	3.750	3.625	3.500

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS	BANKNOTES	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1.4827	1.483	1.4868
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	2.1707	2.179	2.13
GERMANY	MARK	0.6351	0.6431	0.63
FRANCE	FRANC	0.2069	0.2096	0.20
HOLLAND	GULDEN	0.2630	0.2701	0.26
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	0.7558	0.7594	0.75
SWEDEN	KRONA	0.2018	0.2043	0.20
NORWAY	KRONE	0.2036	0.2082	0.20
DENMARK	KRONE	0.2721	0.2743	0.27
FINLAND	MARK	0.2638	0.2674	0.26
CANADA	DOLLAR	1.0636	1.0770	1.06
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1.0750	1.0884	1.01
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	0.8946	0.7034	0.50
BEELGIUM	FRANC	0.2163	0.2181	0.20
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	0.3038	0.3151	0.30
ITALY	LIRE	1.000	0.9446	0.91
JAPAN	YEN	0.8318	0.8420	0.82
JORDAN	DINAR	—	—	0.48
EGYPT	POUND	—	—	0.80

SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI

European Financial Markets

Precious Metals

GOLD:	LONDON	A.M. FIX	333.10	P.M. FIX	333.10
SILVER:	PARIS	NOON FIX	336.76	ZURICH P.M.	331.75
PLATINUM:	LONDON	FIX	518.50		
PALLADIUM:	LONDON	P.M.	409.75		
		P.M.	108.58		

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)

	SPOT	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
DEUTSCHE MARK	2.3300/15	110/105	162/157	312/302
POUND STERLING	1.4875/85	100/98	137/134	225/220
SWISS FRANC	1.9450/55	105/98	152/145	305/295
JAPANESE YEN	177.80/90	89/88	182/179	182/179
FRENCH FRANC	7.1500/50	87/85	127/125	175/170
ITALIAN LIRA	1587.75/50	2150/2275	3100/3250	5450/5650
DUTCH GULDEN	2.6310/20	83/80	120/116	230/222
BELGIAN FRANC	37.25/30	32/30	40/48	49/57
DANISH KRONA	8.5500/00	50/100	75/125	175/275
S.AFRICAN RAND	0.4580/90	36/31	49/43	80/70
EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT	0.9309/13	38/34	50/45	56/48
FINNISH MARK	5.2185/05	250/250	370/420	720/820
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.7220/27	122/116	173/168	317/311
NORWEGIAN KRONA	7.2750/80	850/710	1010/1030	2030/2070

Formula for determining forward rates:
high/low (eg. 220/210) - deduct from spot price.
low/high (eg. 210/220) - add to spot price.

New York Financial Markets

WALL STREET Closing Prices

Dow Jones Indices	1985.72	+11.02	NYSE Highest Volume		
IND	1821.72	+11.02	NAVISTAR	11	+1/2
TRANS	828.38	+12.15	SOU CALIF	31 1/2	+1/2
UTILS	181.53	+2.16	US HOME	8 1/2	+1/4
NYSE COMP	157.88	+0.89	MASSEY-FER	2 1/2	+1/4
NASD COMP	737.31	+2.71	IBM	149 1/2	+1 1/2
S-P INDEX	227.60	+1.20	WESTN AIR	17 1/2	+1 1/2
S-P COMPOSITE	238.97	+1.67	ATT	22 1/2	unch
AMEX INDEX	269.80	+1.83	KLM AIR	20 1/2	+1/4
			TEXACO	30 1/4	+1
			UNION CARB	22 1/2	+1

Statistics

NYSE VOL 178,915,740 STOCKS UP 1,134 DOWN 582

NASDAQ VOL 127,107,700 STOCKS UP 110 DOWN 677

Comment

WALL STREET STOCKS CONTINUE RALLY: The stock market pulled back from its best levels touched at mid-session, but remained sharply ahead of yesterday's level. Declining interest rates provided fuel to boost the rally far into record territory. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 25 points to 1836, compared to the best level of 1841. Secondary issues also surged, with gains leading losers by an eleven-five margin on volume of 148m. shares. Futures-related buying slackened, though traders were waiting for the final hour to commit trades based on index option and futures spreads.

ISRAELI STOCKS Traded in New York:

NYSE and ASE	Last	Prev. Close	High	Low	Vol ('00s)
Alliance	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 1/4	20
Am Int'l Pap	11 1/2	11 1/4	12	11 1/4	84
Ampel	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 1/4	283
Elcint	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/2	2 1/4	117
Ez Lavud	13 1/2	14	13 1/2	13 1/2	9
Laser Inds	15	15 1/4	15 1/4	14 1/4	168

Over the counter

	last	bid	ask	last	bid	ask
Bank Leumi	21	20 1/2	21 1/2	Interpharm	5 1/2	5 1/2
Elbit	8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	Oprotach	9 1/4	9 1/4
EC Tel.	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	Rada	10	10 1/4
Elron	8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	Schex	7 1/4	7 1/4
Floronics	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	Tan-Art	3 1/4	3 1/4
IDB Bank	48	48	48	Tevapharm	3 1/4	3 1/4
IS	—	—	—	SPI	6 1/4	7

U.S. Money Rates

Prime 9.00%; Broker 8.50% to 8.50%; NY Euros 3 months. 7 1/4% to 7 1/4%; Fed Funds last 7 1/4%

New York Foreign Exchange

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN
YESTERDAY'S CLOSING	2.3430/50	1.8540/70	1.4890/00	177.40/50	1.3955/60
OPENING	2.3335/45	1.8490/00	1.4830/40	178.05/15	1.3828/33
LATEST	2.3505/15	1.8590/05	1.4890/00	178.30/45	1.3815/20

Comment

DOLLAR TRADES ABOVE DM2.35 IN NEW YORK - The dollar broke through DM2.35 in largely technical trading, with players largely limited to corporate interests and a few speculators after the close of the European dealing day. Rumours that Bank of Japan had bought dollars earlier in Asia underpinned the dollar for the moment but lingering fundamental weakness limited its upward potential.

Overseas financial data - from Reuters exclusively to The Jerusalem Post.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:		
General Share Index	116.13	+1.37%
Non-Bank Index	132.86	+1.55%
Arrangement	107.87	+0.55%
Insurance	150.81	+4.59%
Commerce, Services	139.87	+2.93%
Real Estate	158.85	+1.97%
Industrial	126.03	+2.32%
Textiles	152.63	+2.15%
Metals	117.26	+2.90%
Electronics	105.80	+1.50%
Chemicals	122.42	+1.35%
Industrial Invest.	127.18	+3.62%
Investment Cos.	141.28	+3.03%
General Bond Index	102.79	—
Index-linked Bonds	102.73	+0.38%
Fully-linked	103.91	+0.38%
Partially-linked	101.58	+0.40%
Dollar-linked Bonds	100.46	-0.29%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	102.17	+0.05%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	102.42	+0.34%
Long-term 5+ yrs	102.02	+0.23%

Turnovers:

Shares - total	NIS 14,159,000
Arrangement	NIS 4,386,300
Non-bank	NIS 9,772,700
Bonds - total	NIS 5,288,400
Index-linked	NIS 2,368,300
Dollar-linked	NIS 2,920,100
Treasury Bills	NIS 37

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Gaddafi back on top

THE CONFRONTATION between the U.S. and Libya is not necessarily over, despite the withdrawal of the Sixth Fleet from the Gulf of Sidra. Only now the initiative is in Muammar Gaddafi's hands, and he is threatening to hit back by launching a world-wide campaign of anti-American terrorism. For the moment, Washington's only overt response is to advise U.S. senators against travelling through the Middle East, and to take precautions at home.

This is a matter of interest to Israel, and a cause for legitimate concern, too. Indeed, America's entire handling of the crisis with Libya is reason for some anxiety.

When the Americans threw the gauntlet down to the Libyans, two weeks ago, Israelis applauded: It was time, so it seemed, for the world's major power to teach the brazen Gaddafi sitting astride the Gulf of Sidra a lesson in the elementary proprieties of international behaviour. The immediate cause of the conflict might have been the right of free passage through what Tripoli chooses to call internal Libyan waters, but the real challenge to be met was Gaddafi's bid to violently remake the world, with Soviet backing, to fit the prescription of his Green Book.

The openly, though not officially, voiced expectation in this country was that any Libyan interference with the movements of Vice-Admiral Frank Kelso's armada would be met with forceful retaliation that could at least throw Gaddafi on the ropes. This would not have been the end of world terrorism; that ambitious purpose could not be effected while leaving Syria and Iran untouched, and without an effective Western quarantine of all the terrorist malefactors. But it might have been the beginning of the end.

But the action actually taken to rub out that imaginary line was itself so puny as to put in question the seriousness of American intentions. When the Libyans, evidently fearing the worst, abruptly called off their missile assault on the U.S. vessels, after several of their own patrol boats and a missile base were struck, the Sixth Fleet, content with this mini-victory, rested on its laurels. To the mass of Libyans, and to large numbers of Arabs in other countries, it spelled a clear win for Gaddafi.

From this position of strength, created for him by the U.S., it should not be too difficult for the Libyan dictator to mobilize the terrorist international formed under his auspices in Tripoli last month for a series of counter-attacks.

The true lesson for Gaddafi from his latest encounter with American power is that the U.S. has still not drawn the proper conclusions from its Lebanese experience. The Reagan administration remains torn between the school of Secretary of State George Shultz, which favours all-out war on terrorism and the school of Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger which counsels caution to the point of immobilism unless total victory over the terrorist enemy can be assured in advance.

The two opposing doctrines are not so much reconciled as stitched together in the deployment of large forces to strike an empty gesture of defiance that may serve as a fine backdrop for belligerent rhetoric, but is not otherwise very useful.

It is now reported that the U.S. may, if Gaddafi carries out his retaliatory threat, bomb terrorist camps within Libya, and that the CIA may, or even will, sponsor a Contra-like Libyan force to topple Gaddafi. But if this is the extent of the American strategic plan about Libya, not much, beyond trouble, can be expected.

Sportoto under a cloud

SPORTOTO, the weekly football pools competition that offers a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for punters who guess 13 results correctly, is once more under a cloud. Allegations have been made that underworld figures have bribed players to "fix" games. By investing heavily in the pools, these wrongdoers have reportedly been reaping rewards of tens of thousands of dollars.

The Chairman of the Public Committee for Lotteries admitted yesterday that he knew of one match that was under investigation by the police. This was a game that was played five months ago between Betar Ramle and Betar Haifa, and the investigation is still in progress.

Such vast amounts are involved in Sportoto that the temptation to "guarantee" results is obviously almost irresistible to the criminal mind. Even the innocent punter who tries his luck each week with a modest stake has a fair chance of getting eight or nine results correct. If a scoundrel invests huge sums so as to cover many eventualities, and ensures that he will get at least one shock result by bribery, so as to reduce the number of winners with whom he has to share the pool to a handful, his pickings can be enormous.

Fifteen years ago, there was a scandal about Sportoto that resulted in the appointment of a special commission, which investigated the allegations in depth and made appropriate recommendations. Shortly afterwards, a law was passed regulating gambling. Since then, there has been a "fixing" scandal involving a well-known coach, but this had nothing to do with the pools: the bribery was planned to save a team from relegation. The culprits were charged and punished.

As everyone says philosophically that corruption is inevitable when large-scale gambling is permitted - indeed, encouraged by the state as a means of supporting sport - it may seem that the only solution would be to abolish Sportoto. This, however, would penalize hundreds of thousands of innocent soccer fans who enjoy each week the excitement of hope, even if they generally suffer thereafter the pangs of disappointment. They should be allowed to indulge their habit, but not at all costs.

With the investigation under way, it should not be impossible to root out players who took bribes, if there are any such. They must then be punished and driven from the game if Sportoto is to go on.

POSTSCRIPTS

P.S. MORE THAN 30,000 women have applied for just 250 jobs as stewardesses with British Caledonian, the airline said recently.

"It appears the whole world wants to become a Caledonian girl," said an airline spokesman.

He said applications had been coming in at the rate of 100 a day from all over Britain and Europe. Although the job does not require higher education, about 1,500 of the applicants have university degrees.

The airline plans to draw up a list of 5,000 women, of whom about one-third will go for an interview with a selection board.

The ones chosen will earn about \$5,000 a year.

Britain is in the throes of record unemployment, with 3,165,200, or 11.1 per cent, of the workforce out of work.

P.S. AUSTRALIA'S latest gold strike is in the heart of Perth at the factory of the state mint.

Mint officials said about 1,000 ounces (28.3 kilos) of gold had vaporized during 86 years of refining, impregnating the fabric of the building.

The walls and ceiling of the factory will have to be melted to separate the \$500,000 worth of the precious metal from the brickwork.

The amount, small compared to a total of 66 million ounces (1.87 million kilos) of gold refined by the mint, was a handy windfall which would go towards the cost of relocating the factory, the officials said.

Most of the gold was lost in the early days when equipment at the country's main refinery was less efficient than today's.

HALACHIC PRO...

THEODORE FRIEDMAN

IS HALACHA racist? The answer depends on Halacha according to whom? According to the Orthodox religious bloc in the Knesset and the Chief Rabbinate, Halacha is racist. Otherwise how would one explain the amendment put forward by the former to include a clause in the proposed anti-racist bill specifically exempting Halacha from the provisions of the law?

As for the Chief Rabbinate, only fairly recently the chief Sephardi rabbi declared that according to Halacha, it is forbidden to sell or lease land and dwellings in Eretz Yisrael to non-Jews. His spokesman, in issuing the pronouncement to the media, seeking to blunt the rabbi's declaration, added that the rabbi did not specifically mention Arabs. But then whom else could he have meant?

In assuming that the Halacha is racist both the Orthodox bloc and the Chief Rabbinate take a position that runs counter to that of such noted exponents of Halacha as the tosafists, whose comments and interpretations are to be found on every page of the Talmud. Moreover, they fail to take into account the interpretation of Rabbi Menachem Meiri (13th century), who, after Rashi, is one of the most popular and authoritative exponents of the Talmud. Above all, they disregard what the supreme Halachist of all times, Maimonides, wrote on the subject of the relations between Jews and Moslems.

Halacha on relations between Jews and non-Jews is based almost exclusively on the tractate *Avoda Zara* (Idolatry). Let it be noted at once, that this tractate, as its title indicates, refers to non-Jews who are idolaters. Thus, for example, the first mishna of the tractate lays down the ruling that a Jew is forbidden to engage in commercial transactions with idolaters three days before their festivals. But, in the Middle Ages, Jews did do business with non-Jews on Sundays, the chief market day at the time. Now, it must be recalled, that all Jews at the time were otherwise meticulously observant of Halacha.

The tosafists resolve the problem by a radical re-interpretation of the Mishna cited above. In the course of their re-interpretation, they write: "It is permitted because we are certain that the non-Jews among whom we live are not idolaters." Rabbi Jacob Tam, an outstanding halachic authority, who is frequently cited in rabbinic response down to this day, offers a somewhat different con-

struction of the Mishna but comes to the same conclusion.

IT REMAINED for Rabbi Menachem Meiri to declare emphatically and repeatedly in his commentary on *Avoda Zara* that "these things (the prohibition to deal with idolaters three days before their festivals and similar prohibitions) were said in their time (that of the talmudic sages) when idolatry was widespread... and the worship of heavenly bodies was a common practice" (p.9). In other words, the talmudic laws in this regard do not apply to Meiri's time. And, one adds, certainly not in our time.

As for Maimonides, in his famous *responsum* to Obadiah the proselyte, he declares quite specifically that Moslems are not idolaters. If this is so, then the ruling laid down in *Avoda Zara* that prohibits the sale or lease of land and dwellings to idolaters in Eretz Yisrael does not apply.

Ultimately, Halacha is the concretization of the ethos of Judaism. That ethos found expression in both word and deed. One of the loftiest expressions of that ethos is reflected in the following statement in the Midrash: "I call heaven and earth to witness, whether Jew or non-Jew, whether man or woman, whether slave or bondswoman, so the spirit of the Holy One Blessed be He rests on each in accordance with one's deeds."

As for racism, it is sufficient to recall that Judaism was the first religion in the world to institute proselytism, the acceptance of strangers into the fold without regard to the proselyte's colour or race. How far the notion of racial purity is removed from the ethos of Judaism is reflected in the words of the Prophet Ezekiel: "Proclaim this word of the Lord the Eternal to Jerusalem - your origin and birth are from the land of the Canaanites, your father was an Amorite, your mother a Hittite."

The egregious assumption that Halacha is racist, knowingly or unknowingly, offers aid and comfort to Kahanism whose propaganda quotes (out of context and without understanding) sentences from the Bible and Talmud in outspoken advocacy of racial legislation. Is this what the Orthodox bloc in the Knesset and the Chief Rabbinate intend? One hopes not but fears for the worst.

The writer is a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative) and currently serves as its chairman of the Committee on Halacha of the Israel region.

...AND CON

MICHAEL KLEIN

WE WERE all outraged, and justifiably so, when the United Nations passed a resolution ten years ago, equating Zionism with racism. This, because we believe Zionism is a philosophy and a movement for the liberation of an oppressed people, for the restoration of basic national rights to that people, and for the establishment of a just and democratic society in its reclaimed homeland. That democratic society was intended to guarantee equality to all of its citizens, and to outlaw racial and religious discrimination. These principles were clearly expressed in the Declaration of Independence, which was signed by the founders of the State - secular and religious alike.

One can only be astounded, therefore, to learn that the chief rabbis of the State of Israel, and the Orthodox religious parties oppose the proposed law against racism, and that due to their opposition, the final vote in the Knesset, that was scheduled for this week, had been postponed.

Is it possible that there are certain sacred or "kosher" forms of racism that are tolerated or even encouraged by Halacha, and that the passage of the bill would have outlawed that halachically sanctioned racism? Could this be the unpleasant and unspoken reason for Orthodox opposition to the law?

Rather than my answering this question, I will let the Halacha speak for itself, and the reader can judge: *Maimonides* (1135-1204): "Gentiles, with whom we are not at war... one must not directly cause their death, but it is forbidden to save them if they are about to die. For example, if he sees one of them fall into the sea, he must not pull him out; for it says (Lev. 19:16) 'you shall not stand by the blood of your neighbour' - and that (gentile) is not considered your neighbour." (*Yad Hachazaka*, Laws of Murder and Protection of Life 4:11) (n.b. The same Hebrew word "neighbour" is used in *Leviticus* 19:18, in the famous phrase "Love Thy Neighbour as Thyself.")

Maimonides: "...one is not permitted to heal gentiles, even for payment. But if he (the Jewish doctor) is afraid of them, or if there is concern about (arousing) hostility, then he may heal for payment - but not free of charge." (*Yad Hachazaka*, Laws of Idolatry 10:2)

Joseph Caro (1488-1575): "A woman in birth is considered like a sick person whose life is in danger, for whom the Sabbath may be violated for any of her needs (such as)... lighting a candle... (But) one must not assist a gentile woman in birth on the Sabbath." (*Shulhan Aruch*; *Ora Haim*, Law of Sabbath 330:1.2)

Hafetz Haim, (Israel Meir HaCohen 1838-1933, founding leader of Agra-

dat Yisrael and 20th-century halachic authority) elaborates upon the preceding item in his commentary *Mishna Berura*:

"One must not assist a gentile woman in birth: not even for payment. For even in the weekdays one assists them in birth (only) in order to avoid hostility... And the Magen Avraham (commentary on *Shulhan Aruch*) has written that 'even where there is concern for hostility one is only permitted (to do activities) that do not entail a violation (of the Sabbath)'. And I want you to know that even the more acceptable (literally "kosher") doctors do not observe this at all for every sabbath they travel many miles to heal gentiles, and they personally write (prescriptions) and prepare medications. But they have no (Halacha) upon which to base (such action), for even if one is permitted to violate a rabbinic prohibition, in order (to prevent) gentile hostility, one is certainly not permitted to violate a biblical prohibition. And they are considered intentional violators of the sabbath - God spare them!"

In a parallel column entitled *Blur Halacha*, the author of *Mishna Berura* adds that "the same law applies to Moslems" (lit: "Ishmaelites") and that "regarding Karaites... everyone agrees that one may not violate... even a rabbinic prohibition (of the sabbath) in order to save their life).

These few samplings from the earliest code by Maimonides through the widely authoritative code of Joseph Caro, and its 20th-century commentary by the Hafetz Haim shed some light on halachic attitudes towards non-Jews. It sheds light upon those Orthodox rabbis and parties who repeatedly try to discredit and delegitimize non-halachic Jews and who would like to exclude the majority of our people.

This might also explain why the Orthodox rabbis and politicians oppose the law against racism, and *inter alia*, why the founding fathers of the State of Israel did not adopt the medieval Halacha as the law of the land.

The writer is Dean of the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem.

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READERS' LETTERS

REGISTERING CONVERTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - In his letter of March 14, Yitzhak Agassi, Acting Spokesman of the Ministry of Interior, claims that the Ministry is acting lawfully in referring new olim who are converts to religious courts as a pre-condition for registering them as Jews. This is not so. The ministry chooses to interpret the law in a way that enables it to act as if the Law of Return has been revised, in response to pressure from the Orthodox lobby. However, only recently, on February 5, the attempt to change the law was again defeated by an overwhelming majority.

It seems necessary to recall the discussion in the Knesset in connection with the passing of the "Who is a Jew" Law in 1970. The response of the Minister of Justice, Ya'acov Shimshon Shapira, indicated the reason why the words "according to Halacha" had been specifically and consciously omitted. Speaking on behalf of the government, Mr. Shapira declared:

"Much has been said here, and in great measure correctly, that paragraph 4b (of the proposed amendment) says: 'For purpose of this law, a Jew is a person born of a Jewish mother or who has converted, and is not a member of another religion.' that this is essentially the same as the directives of the Minister of Interior of January 10, 1960. This is correct, but not entirely correct. For there it is written 'who converted according to Halacha' and here the phrase 'according to Halacha' is omitted. It is completely clear and the reason is extremely simple. There are numerous Jewish communities. How much do we know about Jewish communities in the Caucasus, for example? But we do know that they perform conversions. Therefore I (as Minister of Justice) do not want to fix Halachot nor am I authorized to fix Halachot. We therefore say that whoever comes with any certificate of conversion from any Jewish community, as long as he does not profess another religion, will be accepted as a Jew. What is the meaning of accepting him as a Jew? He will enjoy all the rights of the Law of Return, he will be registered in his identity card as a Jew." (*Knesset Record*, p. 781, 10.2.70).

Without going too deeply into the legalities of the matter, we clearly see that the ministry's conduct goes against both letter and spirit of the law. I also wish to refute Mr. Agassi's claim that "This procedure has been followed by the ministry for years." We know of many cases in the past (as well as a recent case), where Reform converts were registered as Jews in the population registry after making aliyah, without the requirement of confirmation by a rabbinical court, but based instead on their conversion certificate, as is required by the Law of Return and the Population Registry Law.

I was surprised to read his contention that there were many cases where rabbinical courts confirmed conversion documents issued by Reform rabbis. As far as I know, there has never been a case in which a rabbinical court accepted the validity of, and confirmed, a Reform conversion. Only recently a new immigrant was referred by the ministry's office in Tel Aviv to the district rabbinical court. When she applied there, the secretary of the court took one look at her conversion certificate, threw it on the table, and emphatically declared that they never had recognized a Reform conversion, and they never would.

If it is true that there were many such cases, as Mr. Agassi claims, it would be important and very helpful to publicize them. It would prove a good example of an Orthodox attitude that could contribute to tolerance and promote pluralism. With all due respect to Mr. Agassi, the facts contradict his general, unsubstantiated statements.

URI REGEV,
Council of Progressive Rabbis in Israel
Jerusalem.

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WHO IS A RABBI?

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Yedidya Atlas, spokesman for the rabbinate, has hit the nail on the head (March 20). The issue is, indeed, who is a rabbi. What he does not explain is how our ancestors in the galut managed for 2,000 years to determine who was a rabbi without the aid of a chief rabbinate, not to mention its attendant bureaucracy. Somehow, during all that time the unity of the Jewish people and its traditions were preserved. What

We, the Masorti Movement in Israel, have for years challenged the Chief Rabbinate to issue criteria and exams for rabbis. We are confident that our rabbis would stand up to any objective test of halachic knowledge and standards of Jewish practice. The fact is that no standards or test have ever been offered.

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saved us then from "religious anarchy"? Atlas's posturing should not keep us from realizing that the chief rabbinate, like most government bureaucracies, exists primarily for the benefit of itself, i.e. those it employs and those who derive political power from appointing the employees. The chief rabbinate is useless and should be abolished.

MICHAEL GREENGARD
Holon.

CEMETERY SEPARATENESS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - My wife and I have just attended the funeral of a very dear friend at the southern district cemetery of Ashkelon. I found myself confronted with a funeral parlour divided down the middle by iron railings, with separate entrances and signs "ladies" and "gents" as if it were some public toilet. At a time like this, when grief-stricken members of the family and friends need the moral and physical support of their spouses, they are brutally wrenched apart by what, in

my opinion, is a misconstrued notion of the local *Havra Kadisha* to attempt to fulfil the law as prescribed in the Torah.

This institution was shown by Kolbotek to be unscrupulous in its dealings with the public, robbing people of their hard-earned money, contravening the law of the country and certainly that of the Torah. It now adds religious coercion and discrimination of the sexes to its misdeeds.

JOSEPH TAREM
Ashkelon.

NO ANTI-SEMITISM IN PORTUGAL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - With reference to the article, "Question mark over the future of Portuguese Jews" (March 12), (wish to emphasize that, while it is regrettable that Portugal has not yet found the way to reciprocate by opening a diplomatic (or even consular) representation in Israel, there is and was no anti-Semitism in Portugal. Having lived in Portugal from 1929 till 1984, I can state from my own experience that, even in the times of

the authoritarian regime, I was able to pursue an academic career in Portugal - including being acting rector of Lisbon University.

There is some anti-Israel feeling in left wing circles, as there is in many other European countries, and there are vociferous splinter groups on the right and the left. But to talk of anti-Semitism is to do an injustice to the Portuguese and history.

KURT JACOBSON
Haifa.

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